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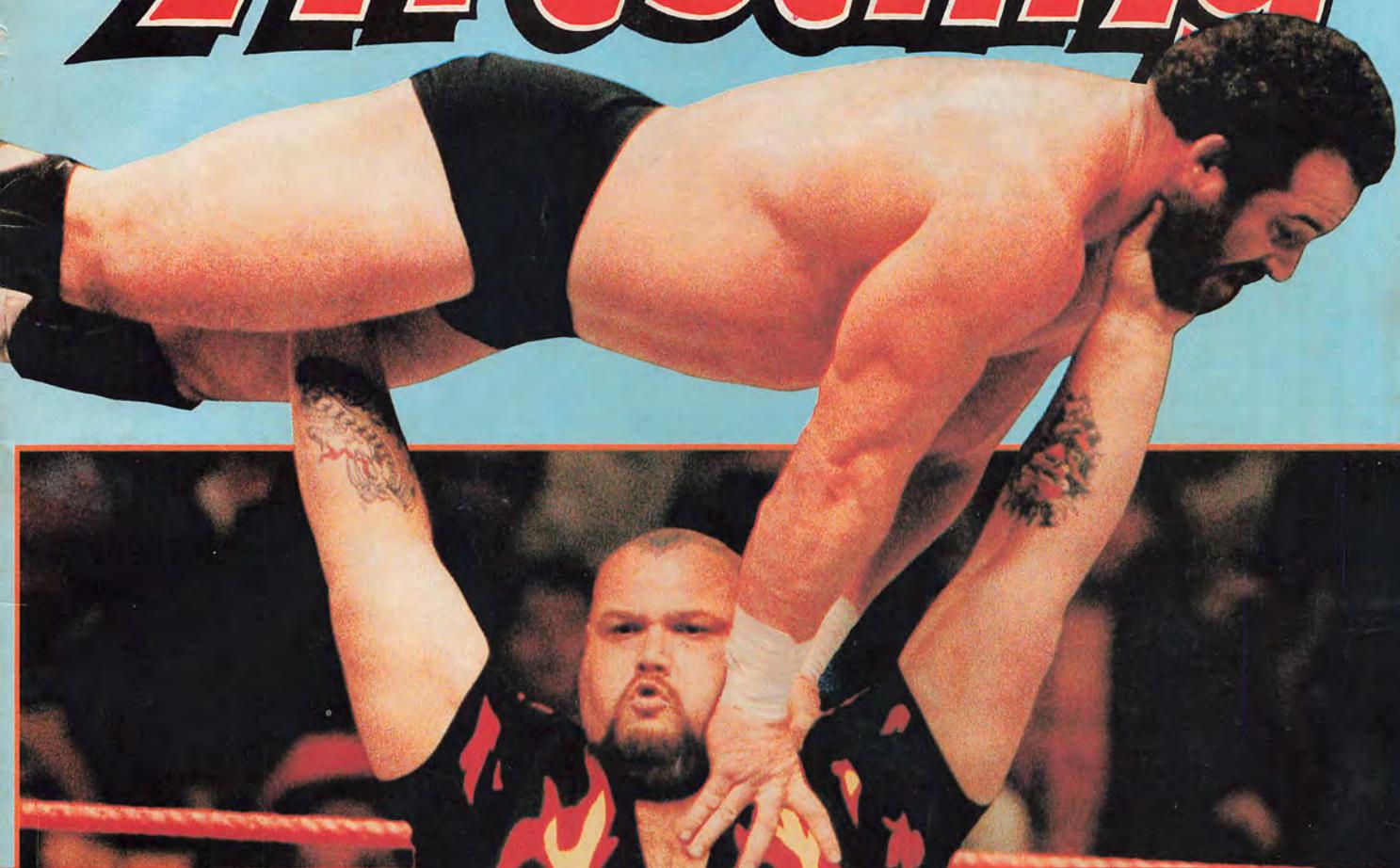
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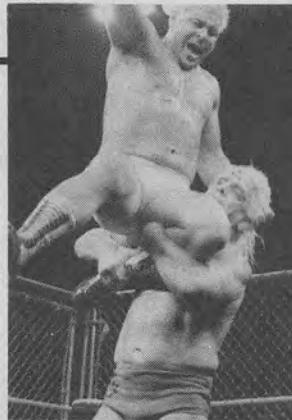
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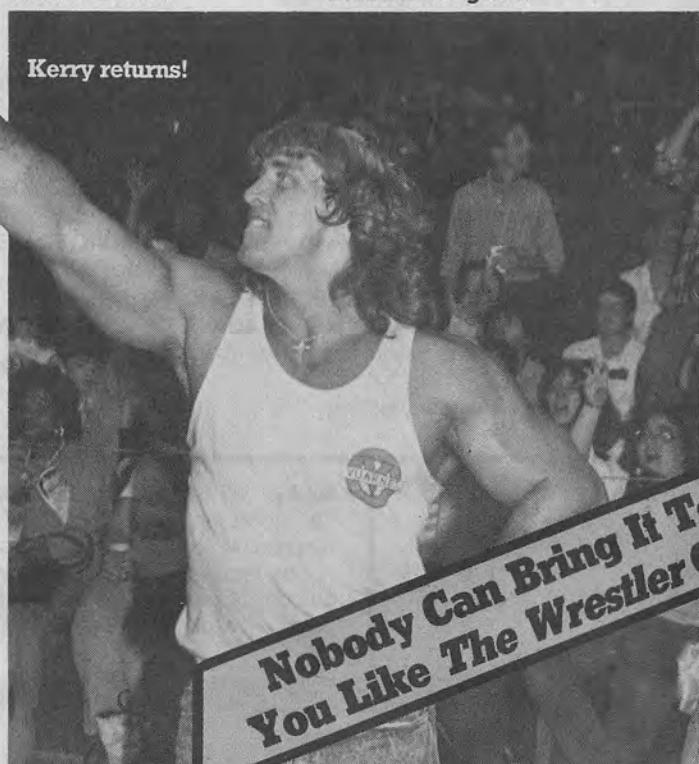
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Wrestling

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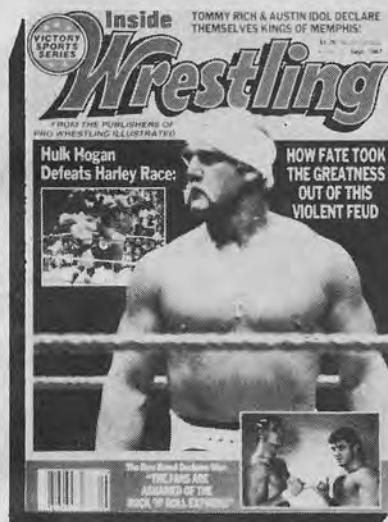
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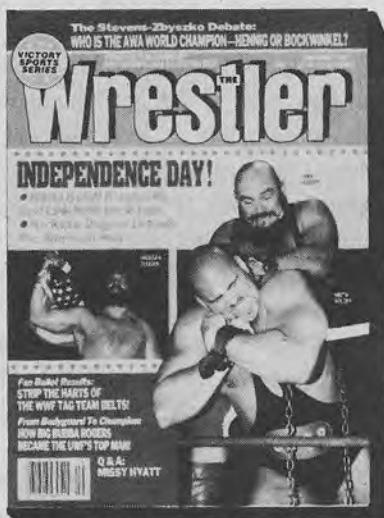
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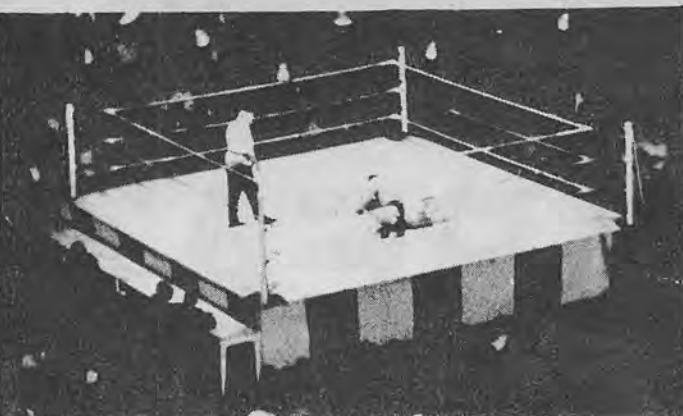
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GET IN SHAPE!

I like The Rock 'n' Roll Express a lot. My room is almost wallpapered with posters of them, I have a scrapbook and a jacket, and I'm in the fan club. But let's face it, their good looks and popularity isn't going to help them in the ring.

I hope that their losing the NWA World tag team belts will wake them up and make them realize that they haven't been spending enough time in the gym pumping iron. Maybe they should go on one of those outstanding Ronnie Garvin fitness programs. I've also noticed that they have become slower in the ring and kind of flabby, too. If they ever want those belts back, they'll have to go on a slight diet and try to become as fast as The Lightning Express. They aren't fit to be champions until they learn to work for it!

I detest The Four Horsemen, but at least they have enough sense to go to the gym. I hope the Rock 'n' Rolls read this letter and realize that their fans do *not* want wimps or flabby guts; we want the old Rock 'n' Roll Express!

CAROLYN ANDERSON
Roanoke, VA

HONKY-MANIA!

What is the matter with you people? Can't you see talent when it's right in front of you? I'm talking about a man who has one of the most prestigious belts in all of wrestling. I'm talking about the man who loves his fans. I'm talking about The Honky Tonk Man. *Whooowhee!* I get excited talking about the greatest Intercontinental champion of all time.



Robert Gibson gives Tully Blanchard a big chop. Reader Carolyn Anderson says The Rock 'n' Roll Express must hit the gym again if they want to regain the NWA World tag team title. The "old" Express, she writes, would never have allowed themselves to get out of shape.

Pedro? No way, *amigo*. Tito? Hardly. Valentine? Close, but no cigar. Savage? You saw the beating he got on *Saturday Night's Main Event*, didn't you? Plus, Savage needed a foreign object and a paid ref to win the belt. Honky Tonk used his bare hands. Heck, even "Macho Man's" woman wants "The Honkster"!

So, as I close, remember this: The Honky Tonk Man appreciates your support.

MIKE MESSIER
Burke, VA

FAULTY CONNECTION

I am tired of hearing people say that there is a connection between Ric Flair and referee Tommy Young. The last

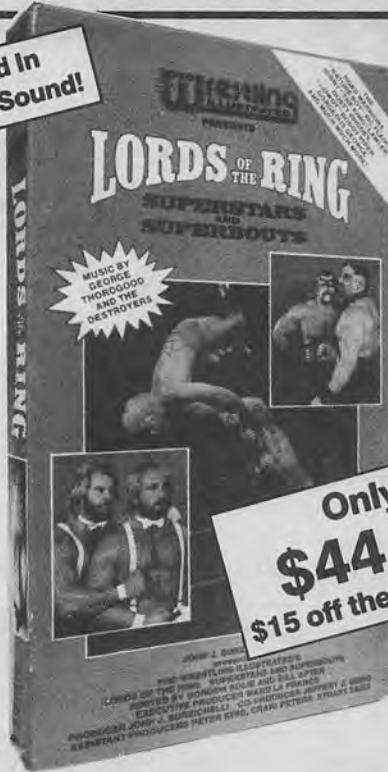
two times Flair has lost the NWA World title, Young was the referee. If there was a connection, I don't think Flair would have lost those matches. Also, of the four times Flair has won the title, Young has *never* been the referee. Many people say that Young is the reason Flair regained the title from Dusty Rhodes. That is stupid, because the referee for that match was Gene Ligon.

It's obvious that the fans don't want to admit Flair is the best wrestler in the world. When he defeats fan favorites, the fans have to blame someone, so they blame Young. Ric Flair doesn't need to pay referees to win. He has

(Continued on page 48)

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

There aren't too many wrestlers who can give the same answer to these two questions: "Who is your favorite tag team partner ever?" and "Who is your most hated opponent ever?"

Jerry Lawler and Bill Dundee can give you an answer to those questions without even having to think about it. "Bill Dundee," Lawler will say. "Jerry Lawler," Dundee will say.

There probably has never been a more volatile relationship in the sport's history. If Dundee and Lawler are in the same area, they are either watching each other's backs--or stabbing them. Their emotions are so strong toward one another that they can either be the perfect tag team or the deadliest of opponents. Either way, when they are in the ring together there is never a lack of excitement.

After their last split, several years back, I could have sworn that they would never be back together. But when Austin Idol and Tommy Rich, managed by Paul E. Dangerously, began a campaign to maim and humiliate Lawler, it was Dundee who came to "The King's" aid. The combination of Lawler and Dundee chased Rich and Dangerously out of the Mid-Southern area and rendered Idol powerless.

But now, for the latest twist in the strange--and often strained--relationship between Lawler and Dundee: Recently, Dundee has begun to team with, of all people, Austin Idol. Now Dundee assures Lawler that he has not deserted him, that he is giving Idol an opportunity to make amends for his past, just as Rich is doing in the AWA. But I see trouble ahead for Lawler. And I'm sure that Jerry has been around long enough to recognize the danger signs.

Now that I think of it, Lawler and Dundee have been friends too long. They're about due for a feud.

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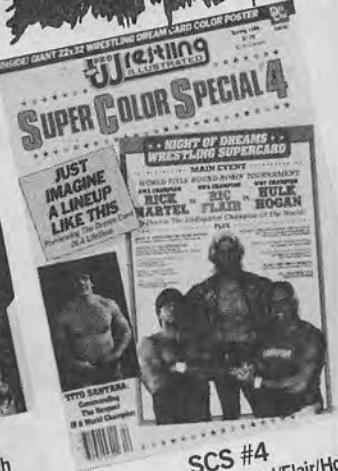
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Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David
Rosenbaum**

THERE WERE STILL four men left in the battle royal when Ted DiBiase stepped through the ring ropes and appeared to be headed back to the dressing room. Most of the 3,000 fans in attendance at Byrne Meadowlands Arena probably weren't sure what was going on—perhaps the referee disqualified DiBiase or maybe Ted didn't feel like wrestling anymore—but they found out in a hurry.

DiBiase grabbed the microphone and started talking. The crowd fell silent and Hercules Hernandez and Dino Bravo stopped pummeling a helpless Jake "The Snake" Roberts. All eyes and ears turned to DiBiase, who was about to drop a blockbuster.

"Hey guys, let's face facts," DiBiase started. "We're all just in this for the money. So I'm gonna make you an offer: I'll give you \$10,000 each to throw yourselves over the top rope. I don't need the money. I just wanna win!"

In the past, "The Million-Dollar Man" had used his wealth to empty public swimming pools, get a table at a restaurant, and make a female fan bark like a dog. But never before, at least to my knowledge, had DiBiase tried to buy a wrestling match. And DiBiase had the nerve to conduct this scandalous transaction in full view of the fans, the press, and perhaps most important, WWF wrestling officials.

To no one's surprise, Hernandez and Bravo accepted the bribe. All it took was one look at Virgil flashing the cash to make up their minds; they exchanged a Dream Team hug and dove over the top rope at opposite sides of the ring. Now only Roberts was left, but Jake—who months ago probably would've taken the cash—wasn't to be bought.

"How about you, Roberts?" Di-
(Continued on page 52)

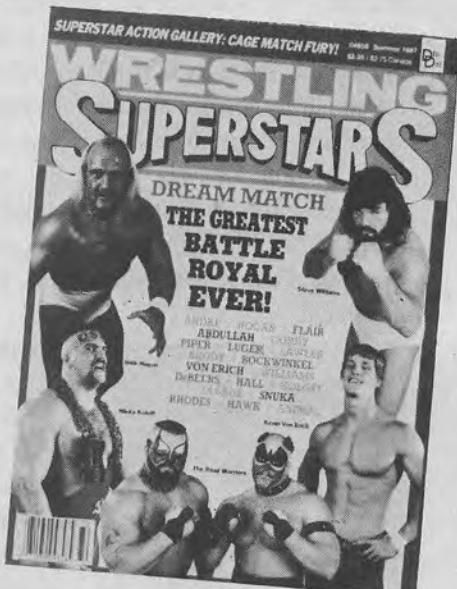
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THE WAY THINGS look right now, 1988 is going to be a very, very good year for the World Class area.

If ever any wrestling area had gone into a new year with better prospects than World Class is looking at now, I can't remember it. Of course I'm not Matt Brock, and my memory doesn't stretch back as far as his does, but let's take a look at what's happening in Texas:

Kerry Von Erich's comeback will, if all goes well, be complete by the time January 1 rolls around. You know, everybody has been falling all over themselves giving Magnum T.A. a lot of attention for his remarkable comeback from an automobile accident. I'm not about to criticize anyone for pointing out what a great comeback Magnum made—it was a virtual miracle that he's now able to walk again. But in the wake of all the Magnum publicity, I fear that people are forgetting about Kerry. They shouldn't. Kerry's comeback is, in many ways, as dramatic as Magnum's. That should never be forgotten.



Chris Adams

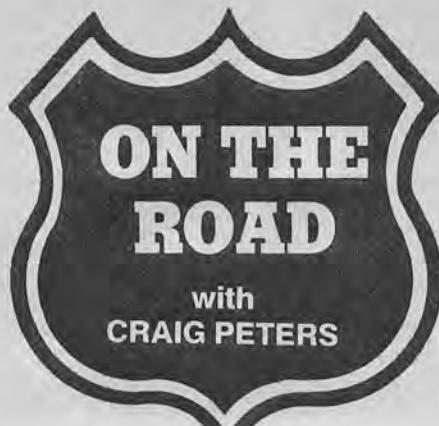
Speaking of comebacks, Chris Adams is back at full strength in World Class following several weeks on the sidelines due to a back injury. Adams, a former World Class heavyweight champion, is gunning for Al Perez in his quest to regain the title. The doubts I have about Adams' comeback are pretty minor, and probably

wouldn't make Adams think twice anyway. I look for Chris to take the belt from Perez.

But the best news is about the tentative new arrivals slated to enter Texas around the first of the year:

Stan Hansen, a former AWA World heavyweight champion and holder of just about every championship Japan ever had, is said to have signed with World Class. A Texas native, Hansen is a hellraiser through and through, and probably wouldn't care if Adams, Perez, or Little Orphan Annie held the World Class belt—he'd pummel the champion into grated flesh just to get a taste of the gold for himself.

Hansen's arrival in Texas would, in itself, be big news. But also slated to return to the area is Bruiser Brody. The arrival in World Class of the wildman from Albuquerque raises a lot of questions: Does Brody want the World Class title? What is the current status of his relationship with former manager/friend/enemy Gary Hart? Has his friendship with the Von Erichs soured? Will Brody's ar-



rival in Texas bring archrival Abdullah the Butcher into the area as well? Will a Hansen-Brody tag team, legendary in Japan, unite in Texas? The answers to these questions will have to remain

speculative as we wait to see what Brody, ever the independent soul in a body built for mayhem, decides what he wants to do.

Okay, so Kerry and Adams are back in form and Hansen and Brody are coming in. What a year, right? Well, there's more.

How about the arrival of former UWF heavyweight champion Terry Gordy? The Freebird-Von Erich wars are already a major piece of World Class wrestling history, and it remains to be seen if Gordy is headed to Texas for a mopping-up mission against Kerry and Kevin, or if he will ignore the bloody wars of the past and seek to add championship gold to his trophy case.

And Brett Sawyer, one of the most unknown quantities in the sport (he was voted 1983's Most Improved Wrestler, but the phrase "untapped potential" seems to have haunted him since then) is said to have already signed with World Class.

The infusion of so much new talent means a lot of things. In an immediate sense, it means that the World Class area will quickly become much more exciting, and will be an important place to watch in the months to come. In a long-term sense, it means that the overall competitive level in the area will have risen considerably, and that means that even *more* new talent could be attracted to World Class.

After all, with names like Gordy and Brody and Hansen added to a roster that already includes Adams and Perez and Von Erich—and that has tough developing talent such as Ted Arcidi and Shaun and Steve Simpson—World Class could gain the kind of "toughest area in the country" reputation that drew a lot of talent to the UWF in early 1987 (and even before that, when the UWF was known as Mid-South).

That kind of reputation lures plenty of athletes anxious to prove themselves. Sure, wrestling is a sport of money and championships, but it is also a sport of ego and reputation. Men claiming to be the toughest seem to draw as much opposition as men holding a championship belt; often they draw *more* competition.

Yes, 1988 could be the benchmark year for World Class. Of course, all the tentative new signings could fall through, but I hope not. World Class has been through a lot of hard times in the 1980s, but the '90s are right around the corner—and if recent developments are any indication, the turn of the decade could see World Class in a stronger position and with a deeper roster of talent than they've had in a long, long time. □



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NAMES MAK

Ric Flair regained the NWA World heavyweight championship from **Ronnie Garvin** with a pinfall victory in the main event of Starrcade '87 in Chicago.

Garvin, who defeated Flair for the title on September 25, was prophetic about the loss and vowed to regain the belt. "He beat me tonight, but give me some time and I'll get that belt back from him," said Garvin. "Before long,



RIC FLAIR

Flair will be back to his cheating ways, I guarantee it, but I have to give him credit; he knew what he had to do to win and he did it."

With his fifth NWA World title, Flair is now only two behind seven-time former NWA World champion Harley Race. But Flair insists he'll never catch Race. "I'm never gonna lose the belt again," said Flair. "When they bury me, it's gonna be with this strap around my waist."

Complete details of Flair's victory, and all Starrcade '87 results, can be found in the April 1988 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.

Get ready for a repeat of WrestleMa-

nia III at WrestleMania IV. Rumors are circulating that **Bobby "The Brain" Heenan** is negotiating with WWF officials to get **Andre the Giant** a rematch against WWF World champion **Hulk Hogan**. Andre was pinned by Hogan at WrestleMania III and has wrestled sparingly since. But Hogan captained a team against Andre in The Survivor Series on Thanksgiving, adding credibility to the rumors. Heenan claims Andre had a legitimate three-count on Hogan in the opening minute of last year's match.



THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS

The Midnight Rockers appear to be headed back to the AWA. **Marty Jannetty** and **Shawn Michaels**, who left the AWA amidst a great deal of controversy after losing the World tag team belts last May, are hoping for a shot at current champions, the "Original" **Midnight Express**. According to AWA officials, negotiations are proceeding smoothly. The Rockers currently reign as AWA Southern tag team champions in the Mid-Southern area after brief stays in the WWF and CWF. They left the AWA when **Boris**

Zukhov and **Soldat Ustinov** denied them a title rematch.

Not too long ago, **Steve Keirn** and **Stan Lane**, **The Fabulous Ones**, were two of the most beloved wrestlers in the Florida area. Now that Keirn and Lane have split up, they're not making too many friends. Lane is a member of the hated **Midnight Express** in the NWA. And now Keirn has found himself in a violent feud with new AWA Southern champion **Jerry Lawler**.

The war started when Keirn attacked Lawler after Jerry accidentally threw fire at him. On a recent Mid-Southern telecast, Keirn insisted that the fans are giving him a bad reputation. He asked **Jeff Jarrett** to tell him who he thought was wrong. Jarrett said Keirn was wrong. All of a sudden, **Jimmy Jack Funk** came out, told Jarrett he was nuts, attacked him, and pulled him into the ring. Then Funk waved Keirn in, but Keirn said he didn't want to get involved.

Then Lawler ran in to help Jarrett and Keirn said, "Now it's my business." But Lawler stopped Keirn by throwing a fireball into the air. That



JIMMY JACK FUNK

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

only delayed the four men from going at it. Jarrett and Lawler vs. Keirn and Funk is now the hottest feud in the Mid-Southern area.

Samoans Fatu and **Samu** defeated **The Invaders** in the finals of a tournament for the new WWC Caribbean tag team championship. The Caribbean title was created after WWC officials eliminated the North American tag team championship, last held by **The Hunters** . . . **David Shultz** and **Sgt. Slaughter** are among the wrestlers signed for the new World Wrestling Alliance's inaugural title tournament on January 23 . . . For the second time in three weeks, **Ted DiBiase** defeated **Hulk Hogan** by countout in Toronto.



TED DiBIASE

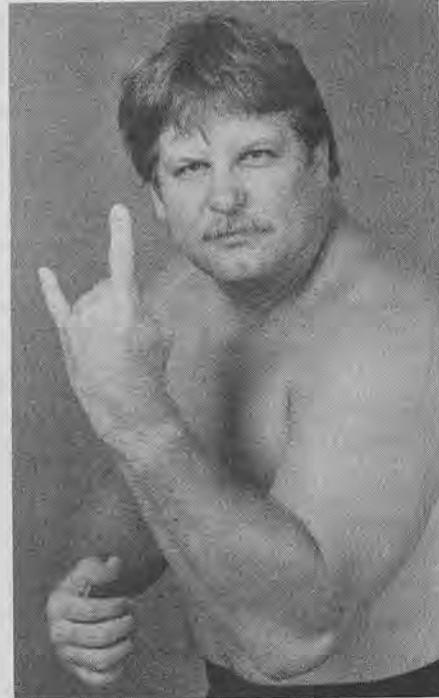
There's good news to report about **Maurice "Mad Dog" Vachon**, who lost his right leg as a result of a car accident on October 9 in Des Moines, Iowa. Vachon was discharged from University Hospital in Iowa City on No-

vember 21 and flew back to Montreal on a private jet owned by the president of Petro Canada, a government-owned oil company. Vachon is being taught to walk with an artificial limb and says he's making progress. He'll spend three to four weeks receiving therapy in Montreal and said he will recuperate at his home before going back to work. Vachon, 58, was the host of a TV talk show in Montreal, a commercial spokesman for several businesses, and a restaurant critic. He was struck by a car while walking along the side of a road. Doctors amputated his right leg below the knee and inserted a pin in his badly broken left leg. The pin will remain in his left leg for another two to six months.

Rockin' Robin has joined the list of challengers for **Sherri Martel's** WWF World women's belt. Martel defeated Robin in Hershey, Pennsylvania, by holding her tights . . . **Dan Davis** (not the member of **The Hart Foundation**) and **Wendell Cooley** are teaming steadily now and going after the Continental tag belts held by **Rob-**



WENDELL COOLEY



STAN HANSEN

ert Fuller and **Jimmy Golden**. **The Southern Boys**, **Tracy Smothers** and **Steve Armstrong**, are hoping for a title shot . . . Former UWF champ **Terry Gordy** and former AWA World champion **Stan Hansen** appear headed for the World Class area. Gordy is also negotiating with Continental Championship Wrestling.

Bam Bam Bigelow was arrested by New Jersey state police on November 3 in Asbury Park for possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana and pleaded not guilty to the charges in Asbury Park Municipal Court. State trooper **Jerry Barbato** arrested Bigelow after stopping his vehicle and finding the drug, according to a police spokesman. Bigelow faces a maximum penalty of up to \$1,000 in fines and/or six months in jail if convicted. As of press time, a court date had not been set.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches!

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 February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.
 July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.
 November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.
 December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.
 January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.
 February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.
 April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.
 May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.
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September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

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September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

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January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

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January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

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March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

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November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

January 1981/Stories include: Snuka, Morales, Slater.

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April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

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September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbysko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian men, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.

April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Roll.

June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.

July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.

August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlemania 2, Garvin, Martel, Fab Ones.

September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.

October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.

November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.

December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.

February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.

March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.

April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.

May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.

June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.

July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.

August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.

September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.

October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.

November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.

December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.

January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.

INSIDE WRESTLING

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THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

I WANT YOU to understand the lengths to which I went to attend the WWF's double battle royal card at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey on Monday, November 16.

Thursday. Receive a phone call from a *Spook Magazine*. For an astronomical fee, they request I cover the annual Batman convention being held in Stamford, Connecticut, on Monday, November 16. Despite a feeling that this is the news event of the year, I decline.

Friday. Invited by several college buddies to a weekend of fun and decadence (all expenses paid) at a Key West condominium. I begin packing my bag until informed that our flight home would not leave until Monday night, November 16. I cite a previous commitment to the astonishment and puzzlement of my friends. "You sick or something?" one tenderly asks.

Saturday. After five hours and six grueling victories, I am informed that the finals of the \$3,500 Acme Racquetball Tournament—into which I have stormed—have been postponed until Monday night, November 16. It seems Jerome Acme's lovely daughter Annie will turn Sweet Sixteen on Sunday. Since Jerome wouldn't consider missing the



Chief Jay Strongbow (wearing the "Hulkamania" T-shirt) is pummeled by Al Costello during the old-timers' battle royal at the New Jersey Meadowlands.

finals of his tournament, he's switched dates. I save him and his offspring the bother of showing up Monday and forfeit.

Sunday. At home, dusting off an ancient scrapbook, my childhood ode to Chief Jay Strongbow. The adrenaline begins to flow. Tomorrow night, November 16, Chief Jay will don the headdress one last time in the WWF's old-timers' battle royal. Childhood memories overwhelm me. I become almost giddy. My reverie is broken by a phone call.

"Halo, Eddeee?"

It is Beth Hotness, a stewardess friend of mind who has, in her short lifetime, redefined for me the word "buxom." A different kind of adrenaline begins to flow.

"Eddeee, I am flying in from Denmark tomorrow night. I would love to see you."

Tomorrow night? November 16? I thought of Beth. Of the last time I saw her. At the beach,

wearing what some would charitably call a bikini; I called it a gauze pad and a pair of bandages. I thought of Chief Jay. Of childhood. Of professional responsibility. I thought I would be sick.

"Sorry, Beth. We'll have to do it another time."

Look, I'm no hero. My behavior does not warrant the Congressional Medal of Honor or anything. I just want you to know what I could have done that Monday, November 16. Of course, by mid-Monday there were no more temptations. I knew I had made the right—the only choice. Chief Jay Strongbow was my childhood hero. While others looked forward to the title matches—in those days it was either Pedro Morales or Bruno Sammartino defending—I longed only for the Chief. The patented entrance. The War Dance signaling the inevitable ral-

(Continued on page 64)

THE VIDEOTAPE EVENT OF THE YEAR!



Slant-Eyed Slaughter

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

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Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Noriyo Tateno & Itsuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

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ON ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

THOSE OF YOU fast to criticize my "hands on" approach to sports reporting might as well turn the page. I suspect this column won't appeal to your finicky sensibilities.

An excerpt from my journal, dated October 23, 1982:

Lexington, Kentucky. 3:30 a.m. Sleep? I don't think I'll ever sleep again. Who needs sleep . . . when love comes knocking? Oh Liz, you naughty girl. Barely a year on the full-time beat and you've already broken your only professional vow: never socialize with athletes. No quicker way to lose objectivity. How many times did I hear professors say that? Don't get involved! Steer clear of commitments. Life was a matter of five W's—who, what, when, where, why—and three sacred P's—pen, paper, and public. Have I failed? Should I turn in my degree? Toss my tape recorder in the trash compacter? Not yet. Thus far the only thing compromised is my phone number. But if he does call there might be trouble.

He never called. The next time I heard from Eddie Gilbert was in early 1984 when I bumped into him in a Dallas shopping center. "Lizzie babe," he said and he grasped me in a huge bear hug. Next thing I know we're eating lunch, my anger dissolving in light of his transcendent charm.

"Why didn't you ever call me back?"

"Oh, I've been busy, Lizzie. So very busy. Trying to retire, honey."



The marriage of Missy Hyatt and Eddie Gilbert brought back some unpleasant memories for Liz Hunter, who had a crush on Gilbert five years ago. The experience taught Liz an important lesson: Never get involved with the people you cover.

Don't want to work this body no more."

Gilbert was all of maybe 24 then, not much younger than myself, and we both believed in impossible things.

"You should have called."

"Wait here one second, sweetness. Eddie Gilbert will be right back."

After 20 minutes I assumed he was gone, leaving me with the check. Suddenly he returned with

(Continued on page 62)

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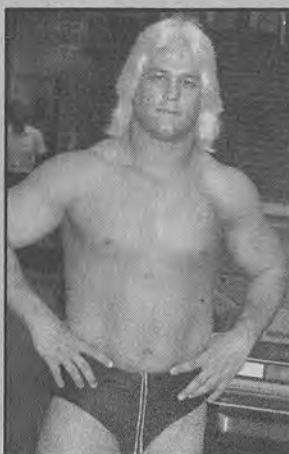
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



KING CURTIS

Curtis, who most recently managed Kamala in the WWF, has gone into semi-retirement and returned to his home in Hawaii. Although he plans to stay away from the ring wars for a while, Curtis continues to scout new wrestling talent on the Hawaiian islands. He hopes to find a man he can train to bring to the WWF and beat Hulk Hogan for the World title. Meanwhile, Curtis runs several vacation entertainment concessions in Hawaii.



BUDDY LANDELL

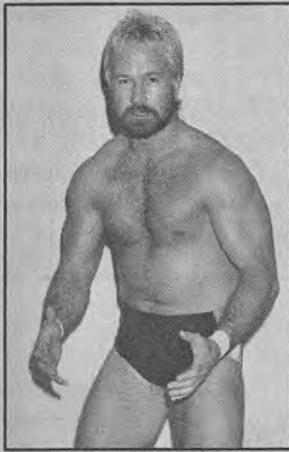
After repeatedly getting turned down for shots at AWA World champion Curt Hennig, "The Nature Boy" has returned to the Continental area, where he has held several titles in the past. Although Landell hopes to regain the Continental title, he'll also spend a good deal of time working with announcer Gordon Solie on Continental broadcasts. "They asked me to come back and help boost their ratings," Landell bragged.



BRETT WAYNE SAWYER

After a long tour of Japan and the Middle East, Brett says he plans to wrestle in the World Class area beginning in January. Brett, the brother of Buzz Sawyer, has held several singles and tag team titles in

the Pacific Northwest and Georgia areas, and now wants to add Al Perez's WCCW belt to his collection. "Perez is a good wrestler but I have the experience and the skills to beat him," said Sawyer.



STEVE REGAL

Regal, who teamed with Jim Garvin to defeat The Road Warriors for the AWA tag belts in 1985 and also held the AWA Jr. heavyweight championship, has left the WWF and is now working for several small promotions in

the midwest. Known as "Mr. Electricity," Regal is hoping to one day return to the mainstream. "I've proven I have the ability to be a champion," said Regal. "How many teams have beaten The Road Warriors?"

INSIDE WRESTLING

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CAPSULE PROFILE

TONY ATLAS



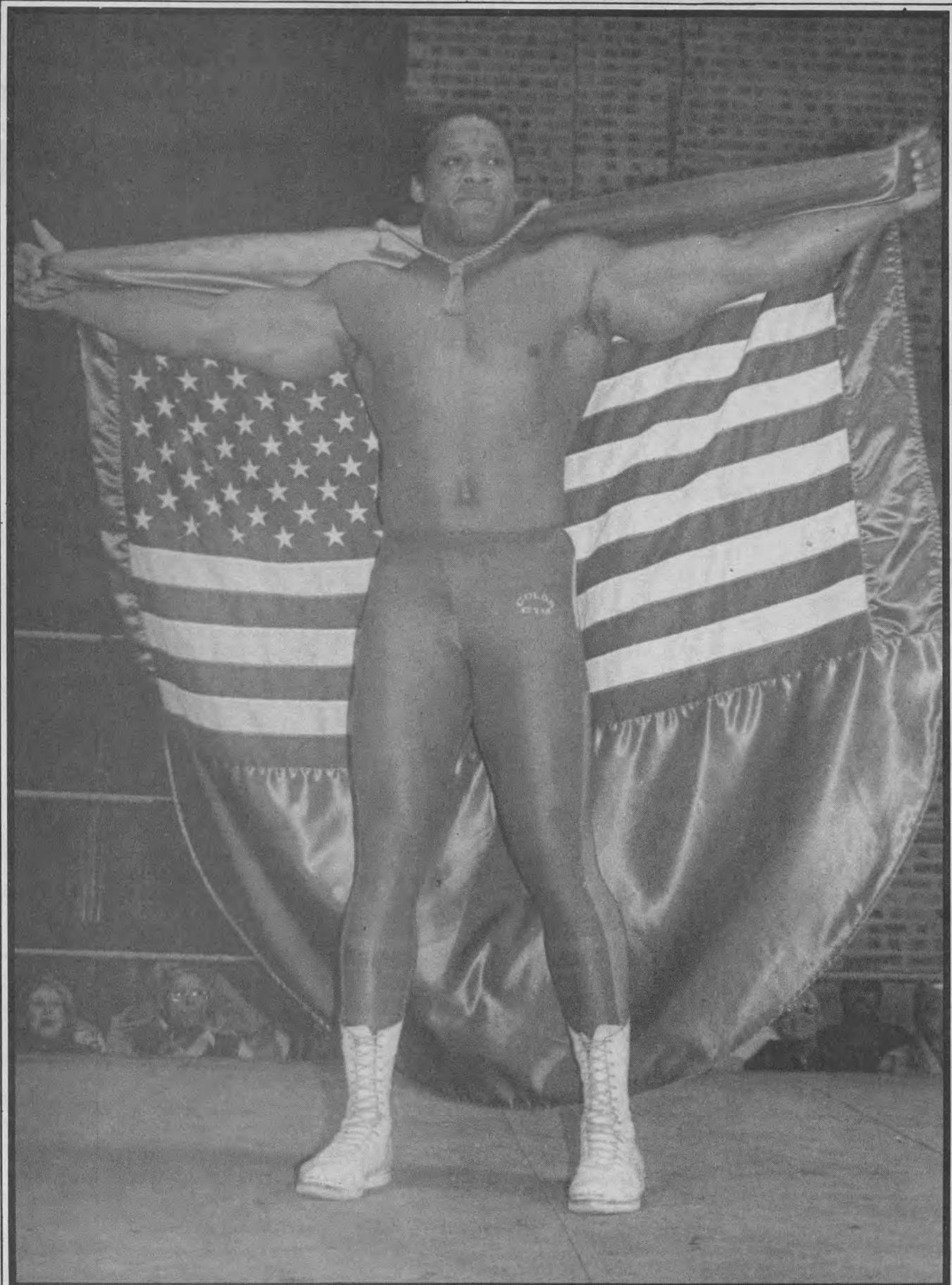
STILL POSSESSING ONE of the finest physiques in wrestling, Tony Atlas is the "Superman" of the World Class area (*"That's me. More powerful than a locomotive"*) ... For many years a top bodybuilder, and once won the "Mr. U.S.A." title (*"I still think I could compete with the best of them"*) ... Has wrestled in almost every major area since his debut in 1975 (*"Everybody knows who Tony Atlas is"*) ... Early titles included the Mid-Atlantic and Georgia singles, and Georgia tag title with Tommy Rich (*"Tommy was a good man and a good partner"*) ... Feuded in Georgia with Larry Zbyszko, Buzz Sawyer, and Killer Brooks (*"They were tough, but I came out on top"*) ... Was for years a top contender for Harley Race's NWA World title (*"A lot of times I almost won that belt"*) ... Went to the WWF late in 1983 and formed a tag team with Rocky Johnson (*"We sparred together and decided we'd make a great team"*) ... On November 15, 1983, Atlas and Johnson beat The Samoans to win the WWF World tag team title (*"Hardly anybody thought we could do it, but we proved them wrong"*) ... Lost the belts to Adrian Adonis and Dick Murdoch on April 17, 1984 (*"We can't complain. We had an exciting title reign"*) ... Alone, went to

"Superman" Tony Atlas slugs Brian Adias. A fine wrestler on his own, Atlas has also won several tag team titles, the most prestigious being the WWF World belts with Rocky Johnson. Before he broke into the sport in 1975, Atlas was a successful bodybuilder. He was wrestling's most dominant muscleman for many years.

the AWA (*"I got back into singles competition with no problem"*) ... Returned to the WWF after he was unable to get a shot at then-AWA World champion Rick Martel (*"If they wouldn't give me the opportunity, there was no use staying"*) ... Went to the World Class area in 1986 and won the TV title from Crusher Yurkof (now known as Bam Bam Bigelow) on December 1 (*"He sure is a big guy, but he didn't look too bad to me"*) ... Went to Puerto Rico for a short time and won the WWC North American tag team belts with Miguel Perez Jr. (*"I win wherever I go, don't I?"*) ... Nine days after losing that belt, he and

Skip Young won a tournament for the World Class Texas tag team title (*"We were on that night. Nobody was gonna beat us"*) ... Teamed with Junkyard Dog to beat Kamala and Sika at the Paul Boesch retirement spectacular in Houston (*"That was my way of honoring Paul"*) ... Currently after the World Class championship held by Al Perez, but so far Perez has denied him a shot (*"I'd have won it by now if Perez and his sneaky manager Gary Hart weren't afraid of me"*) ... If a fan favorite besides Atlas were to win the belt, he would do well not to ignore "Superman's" title aspirations (*"I'm not gonna be denied again"*) □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



TONY ATLAS

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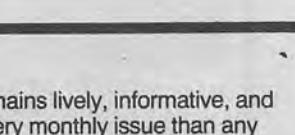


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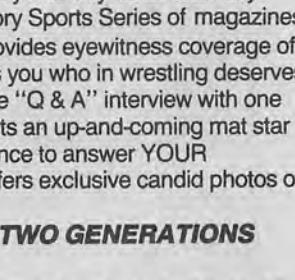


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SPRINGFIELD, IL By Kevin Lloyd



RANDY SAVAGE
vs.
THE HONKY TONK MAN



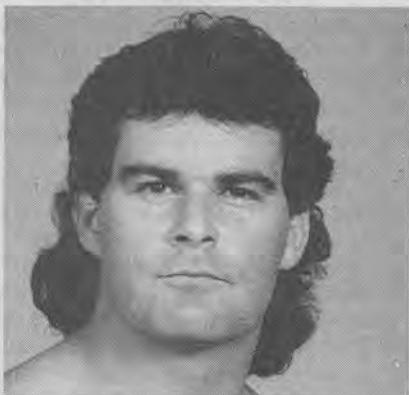
It looked like it would be an easy win for Savage, who dominated most of the bout. At one point, Honky Tonk had the advantage after hitting Savage with Jimmy Hart's megaphone. Then he jumped out of the ring and chased Elizabeth. Savage recovered, jumped out of the ring, and hit Honky Tonk from behind. The two returned to the ring and Savage began pummeling Honky Tonk illegally. Referee Dave Hebner tried to stop Savage, who hit Hebner and got himself disqualified.

OTHER BOUTS: Strike Force defeated The Islanders ... Bam Bam Bigelow pinned King Kong Bundy ... Butch Reed beat Superstar Graham ... Killer Khan defeated George Steele by count-out ... Billy Jack Haynes pinned Danny Davis ... Ron Bass beat S.D. Jones ... Dan Spivey pinned Scott Casey.

BELTON, TX By Jim Gentry



KEVIN VON ERICH
vs.
BRIAN ADIAS



In a cage match brawl featuring two former friends, Kevin Von Erich gained the upper hand early by slamming Brian Adias' head several times into the cage. Adias retaliated in kind after he kneed Kevin in the groin, but couldn't position himself to use his "Oriental tool." Kevin rallied before he put the iron claw on Adias' midsection. Brian managed to escape briefly, but Kevin aggressively pressed the advantage. One backbodydrop and a dropkick later, Kevin scored the pinfall.

OTHER BOUTS: Kerry Von Erich & Matt Borne defeated Al Perez & The Iron Sheik ... Mil-Mascaras beat Frank Lancaster ... Eric Embry pinned Shaun Simpson ... Tony Atlas & Sweet Brown Sugar defeated Vince Apollo & Ted Arcidi.

PHILADELPHIA, PA By Ron Shaffery



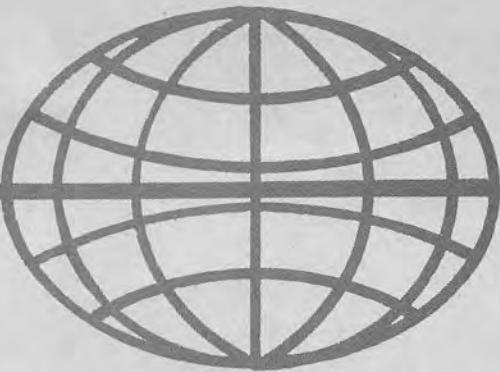
RIC FLAIR
vs.
NIKITA KOLOFF



After wearing Koloff down for almost a half-hour and injuring the Russian's sickle arm, Flair moved in for the pin. Koloff threw Flair off him and into referee Dick Kroll. Flair then threw Koloff out of the ring and tried to wake up the ref. Koloff reentered the ring and hoisted Flair over the top rope as Kroll was regaining consciousness. Koloff was disqualified.

OTHER BOUTS: The Midnight Express defeated The New Breed ... Mike Rotundo pinned Rick Steiner ... Michael Hayes & Jim Garvin wrestled The Sheepherders to a draw ... Sting pinned Eddie Gilbert ... Jimmy Valiant defeated The Warlord ... Mighty Wilbur beat Ivan Koloff by disqualification ... Bugsy McGraw pinned Teijo Khan.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



MILAN, ITALY By Roberto Pastore



OUTBACK JACK
vs.
NIKOLAI VOLKOFF



In the first WWF card ever held in Italy, 10,000 fans came close to selling out the Palatruccard. Before the match, Hacksaw Duggan stormed out of the dressing room and interrupted Volkoff's singing of the Soviet national anthem. Early in the bout, Volkoff controlled the tempo with a series of punches, kicks, forearm smashes, kneelifts, headbutts, elbows, and a bearhug. When Outback sent Volkoff into the ropes, Duggan interfered and tripped the Russian, but the referee didn't see it. Outback elbowsmashed Volkoff and got the pin. **OTHER BOUTS:** The Rougeaus defeated Greg Valentine & Dino Bravo ... Hacksaw Duggan pinned The Iron Sheik ... Junkyard Dog pinned Harley Race ... Sherri Martel pinned Velvet McIntyre ... S.D. Jones pinned Sika.

LAS VEGAS, NV By Arthur J. Risk



JERRY BLACKWELL
vs.
KEVIN KELLY



Early on, Kelly took Blackwell down with a vicious clothesline, but missed with a followup elbowsmash. After headbutting Kelly and slamming him, Blackwell climbed to the second rope and jumped on Kelly for the pin, but Nick Kiniski climbed up on the ring apron and shouted at Blackwell, who then pulled Kiniski into the ring and pummeled him. Kelly got up and attacked Blackwell. Blackwell then cleaned house and the bout was ruled a no-contest.

OTHER BOUTS: Adrian Adonis beat Jake Millman ... Greg Gagne defeated Rocky Stone ... Dick Slater beat Jim Evans ... Allan West & Mitch Snow defeated Brian Costello & Peter Sanchez.

OTTAWA, ONTARIO By Kevin Restivo

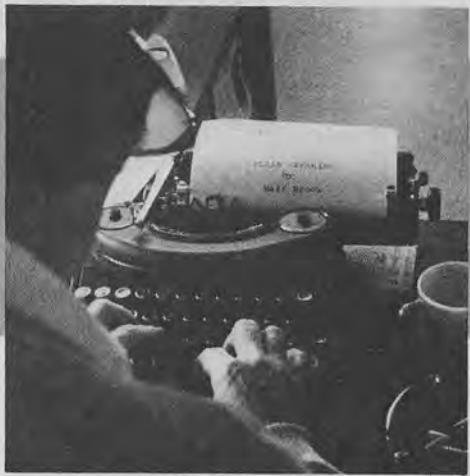


BAM BAM BIGELOW
vs.
KING KONG BUNDY



Bundy attacked Bigelow before the bell. He slammed Bigelow continuously and whipped him into the turnbuckle, but missed with an avalanche. Bigelow charged Bundy with a football tackle, but missed and fell out of the ring. When Bigelow got back in the ring, Bundy gave him a massive clothesline and knocked him out of the ring again. Bundy threw him back in the ring and attempted a splash, but Bigelow moved out of the way and pinned Bundy with a splash of his own.

OTHER BOUTS: Butch Reed defeated Superstar Graham ... The British Bulldogs beat Demolition by disqualification ... Rick Rude beat Paul Orndorff ... Magnificent Muraco defeated Killer Khan by countout ... The Ultimate Warrior pinned Danny Spivey ... Hillbilly Jim defeated Bob Orton Jr.



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ: Nostalgia night at The Meadowlands, and that's kind of ironic because the Byrne Meadowlands Arena wasn't even built when most of the wrestlers participating in the WWF's old-timers' battle royal were in their prime. Back then, The Meadowlands was a swamp and all the action took place in old Sunnyside Gardens in Queens and Madison Square Garden in the center of town. Nonetheless, it's great to see all these old guys doing their thing once again, and maybe The Meadowlands is the perfect place, because it gives all these



OLD-TIMERS' BATTLE ROYAL

young fans a chance to see all the greats they've only heard about: Al Costello, Bobo Brazil, Edouard Carpentier, Chief Jay Strongbow, Nick Bockwinkel, Pedro Morales, Rene Goulet, Arnold Skaaland, The Crusher, Gene Kiniski, Killer Kowalski, Pat O'Connor, Ray Stevens, Sailor Art Thomas, Baron Scicluna, Dominic DeNucci, Gino Brito, Lou Thesz, and Tony Garea. Of course, many of these men have only recently retired, but for the most part they were in their primes in the 1940s, '50s, '60s, and early '70s. The whole thing ended with Pat O'Con-

nor and Lou Thesz battling it out in the center of the ring, putting on an exhibition of real old-time scientific wrestling moves. It was pretty obvious that these old guys haven't forgotten much. Lou came out the winner, and afterward he and Pat shook hands. That brought back a lot of memories. The WWF has come under a lot of criticism because it often ignores wrestling's past, but they deserve a lot of credit for this. It's unfortunate that less than 4,000 people were here to see it; the arena was virtually empty. I'd like to see them do this again in the Garden, where the old-time fans would have a better chance to see the old-timers, just a subway ride away. A sellout crowd would do these guys justice.

CHICAGO, IL: You can keep your pay-per-view wars. Live wrestling is the only thing I'm interested in, and to me there's only one place to be on Thanksgiving Day and it's not sitting around with boring relatives stuffing turkey down your throat. Jim Crockett Promotions' annual Starrcade show is always the best of the year, and I wouldn't miss it



RIC FLAIR

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

for anything. As for this whole pay-per-view thing between Starrcade and the WWF's Survivor Series, well, it can only be good for wrestling because competition is always good for the fans. So let them fight. They'll upgrade the product, give us better matches, and we'll all win in the end. But to me it really doesn't matter because I'm going to the shows no matter what, and I don't even watch TV. Nope, Matt Brock hasn't switched on the ol' boob tube in years and it's going to stay that way. As for Starrcade, this year's show promised to be one of the best ever because of the talent involved. The centerpiece of the card was, of course, the Ric Flair-Ronnie Garvin NWA World title rematch. As I thought he would, Flair regained the belt from Garvin, but it wasn't easy. Garvin is one tough competitor and he's in outstanding shape. In retrospect, however, I'd have to say that the 40-day vacation Garvin took from title shots leading up to Starrcade hurt him in the long run. Garvin was sporting a thick coat of ring rust while Flair never looked more prepared. Say what you want about Flair, but there's no doubt that he's one of the most successful mat stars of all time, a five-time NWA World champion. Flair does a lot of talking and he does plenty of cheating, but he's won the belt five times and you can't do that by getting disqualified. You have to win. Flair will now go back to his old cheating ways to save the belt, but the fact is that he has what everybody else wants. Give the man a hand.

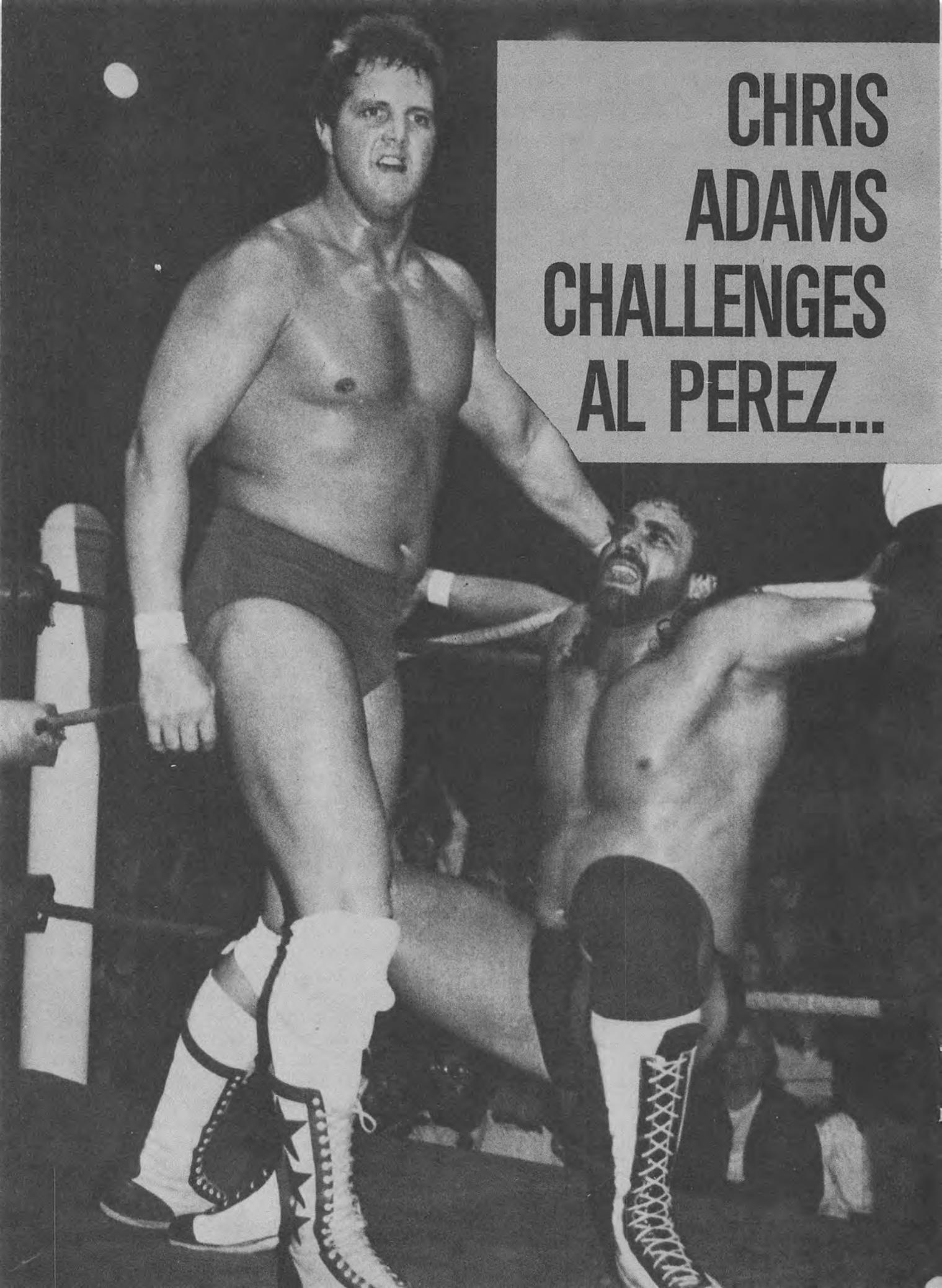
MINNEAPOLIS, MN: Here we go again. Another woman enters the mat wars and threatens to ruin a young wrestler's career by smothering him with her beauty and selfishness. This time I'm talking about Madusa Micelli, who's about to do a number on Kevin Kelly, if I'm on target. And I usually am. Kelly is a good-looking wrestler: very muscular, extremely determined, and he knows his way around the ring. He'll get somewhere if he doesn't let his big mouth get in the way. And if he doesn't let Micelli get in the way. There's no doubt that she's only out to promote herself. Have you seen her poster? Have you seen the way this woman parades herself in front of the camera? She's not a valet and she's



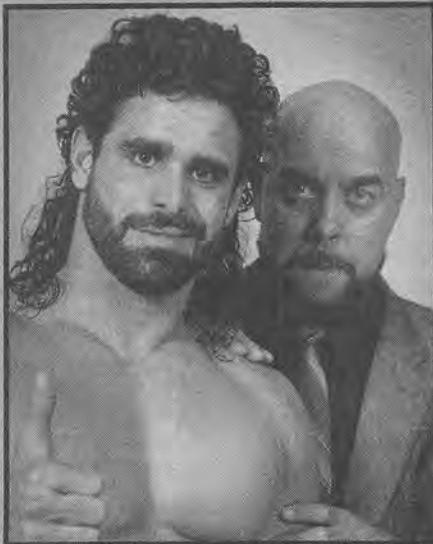
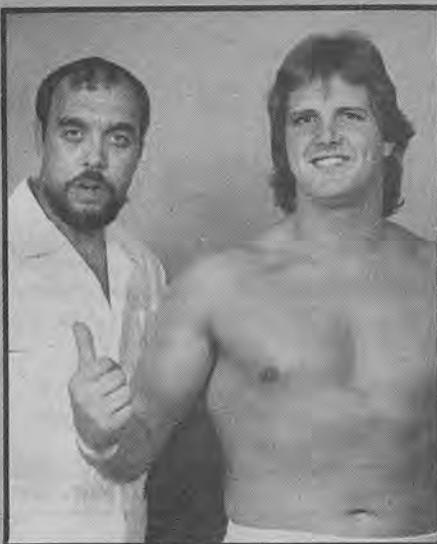
MADUSA MICELLI & KEVIN KELLY

certainly not a woman. She's a user, plain and simple, and Kelly would do well to get rid of her. There's probably a place in wrestling for women like Micelli, though. *Somebody* has to clean up the arena afterward.

ATLANTA, GA: This magazine comes out on the newsstands a little bit after New Year's Day, so it's not too late to say a few things about the upcoming year. The time has come for this sport to get a hold of itself. Wrestlers on TV are getting carried away with offensive comments that have nothing to do with wrestling. The major federations are threatening to eat up the smaller promotions. There seems to be less emphasis on scientific wrestling skills and greater emphasis on brawling and cheating. Managers interfere far too often. Vince McMahon and Jim Crockett are battling each other, but they should stop to realize that they're both on the same side. If one dies, both will die. And if the smaller promotions die, then where will tomorrow's stars come from? There isn't a large arena in *every* city. The fans in small towns need to be served. Wrestling is for everybody. If the fans stop going to the arenas because there's enough wrestling on TV, they'll eventually stop watching on TV, too. I've seen it all in my time. I've been around long enough to know. It's time for everyone involved to cool down. □



**CHRIS
ADAMS
CHALLENGES
AL PEREZ...**



Chris Adams has World Class champion Al Perez trapped (opposite page). Adams was once managed by Gary Hart (above left), who now guides Perez's career (above right). Chris feels that his relationship with Hart gives him insight into Perez's style.

AND GARY HART HOLDS THE KEY!

CHRIS ADAMS WAS in a hurry. He worked his way through a maze of people crowded at the corner bus stop and made a left onto a busy downtown Dallas thoroughfare. Adams had an appointment to keep, but he suddenly stopped dead in his tracks and looked straight ahead.

"Would you believe it?" Adams asked. "That guy's still there!"

He pointed toward a disheveled old blind man limping along the sidewalk, a German Shepherd dog loyally at his side. The man looked like he hadn't showered in weeks. He held a tarnished metal cup in his left hand.

He was a beggar. A *blind* beggar. "Believe it or not," Adams said, "that little old man had a profound influence on my life about two years ago. It was just when I was recovering from getting blinded by Gino Hernandez. I was walking down this very same street, saw that very same guy, and dropped some money into his cup. He got me thinking about

how important life is and how lucky I've always been. He also made me realize that I should value my eyesight."

Adams walked up to the old man and, as he had done years earlier, dropped some coins into the cup. "I guess," Adams said, "you can say we're both survivors."

Indeed, Adams is a survivor. Few men in wrestling have overcome all that he has: violent feuds early in his career, temporary blindness at the hands of former friend Gino Hernandez, the death of Hernandez, a three-month jail sentence after an incident on an airplane in 1986, and another feud with another former tag team partner, Terry Taylor. Adams' career has been filled with obstacles, but he's managed to survive.

"I'll tell you," Adams said as he continued down the street, "it's great to be back. I mean, I never really left Texas when I was in the UWF, but my heart has always been with the World Class." Putting the

old man out of his mind was easier for Adams than it was last time. "The fans, the people, everything. The best and worst moments of my life have occurred in this place. I always knew I would come home someday."

But now that he's back in the World Class, Adams faces new obstacles. Although much has changed in this area since he left in the summer of 1986, certain vital elements are still the same. One of those elements, manager Gary Hart, figures to stand in the way of any hopes Adams has of winning the World Class heavyweight title from Al Perez.

Hart, a brilliant man with a devious mind, and Adams have a long history. Adams first came to the World Class area in late 1983 and befriended the Von Erich family, making him Hart's natural enemy. In time, however, Adams took on Hart as his manager to help escape from the shadow of the Von Erichs.

(Continued on page 54)

Chris Adams has returned to Texas and is chasing after Al Perez's World Class heavyweight title. But to get past Perez, Adams must overcome Gary Hart—a man he's had plenty of dealings with in the past!

INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
305, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia

- 4—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 5—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 6—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 7—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX

- 8—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 9—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 10—**AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL
- 11—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL

- 12—**THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
- 13—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 14—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 15—**OWEN HART**
223, Calgary, Alberta

NWA

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 3—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL

- 4—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 5—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 6—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX

- 8—**STING**
270, parts unknown
- 9—**MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 10—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 11—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA

- 12—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 13—**ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
- 14—**IVAN KOLOFF**
240, Moscow, Russia
- 15—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN

AWA

- 1—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 3—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX

- 4—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 5—**TOMMY RICH**
242, Hendersonville, TN
- 6—**JERRY BLACKWELL**
474, Stone Mountain, GA
- 7—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
312, New York, NY

- 8—**KEVIN KELLY**
271, Oakland, CA
- 9—**DICK SLATER**
235, Albany, NY
- 10—**D.J. PETERSEN**
245, St. Joseph, MO
- 11—**JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN

- 12—**J.T. SOUTHERN**
254, Asbury Park, NJ
- 13—**NICK KINISKI**
220, Edmonton, Alberta
- 14—**MITCH SNOW**
220, Mooresville, NC
- 15—**ALAN WEST**
251, Zuma Beach, CA

WWF

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
305, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
- 3—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL

- 4—**TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 5—**BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 6—**ONE MAN GANG**
468, Chicago, IL
- 7—**KILLER KHAN**
275, Mongolia

- 8—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 9—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 10—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 11—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ

- 12—**BUTCH REED**
255, Kansas City, MO
- 13—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA
- 14—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
- 15—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
305, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

- 4—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 5—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 6—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 7—**STING**
270, parts unknown

- 8—**CHRIS ADAMS**
228, Stratford on Avon, England
- 9—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 10—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 11—**BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

- 12—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 13—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 14—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 15—**OWEN HART**
223, Calgary, Alberta

MOST HATED

- 1—**THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
- 2—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis
- 3—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL

- 4—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 5—**TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 6—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 7—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL

- 8—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 9—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ
- 10—**AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL
- 11—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France

- 12—**BRIAN ADIAS**
238, Denton, TX
- 13—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 14—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 15—**KEVIN KELLY**
271, Oakland, CA

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
No. 1 contenders to NWA World tag team title
- 2—**TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
NWA World tag team champions
- 3—**RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA**
WWF World tag team champions
- 4—**BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE**
U.S. tag team champions
- 5—**BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART**
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title

- 6—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
No. 2 contenders to NWA World tag team title
- 7—**THE ISLANDERS**
No. 3 contenders to WWF tag team title
- 8—**THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
No. 2 contenders to WWF World tag team title
- 9—**THE SHEEPHERDERS**
UWF tag team champions
- 10—**DENNIS CONDREY & RANDY ROSE**
AWA World tag team champions

- 11—**THE NEW BREED**
No. 1 contenders to U.S. tag team title
- 12—**THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**
AWA Southern tag team champions
- 13—**ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN**
Southeast Continental tag team champions
- 14—**BRUCE HART & BRIAN PILLMAN**
No. 1 conts. to Stampede International tag title
- 15—**THE RPMs**
No. 1 contenders to AWA Southern title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended November 27, 1987

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALABAMA CHAMPION: TOM PRITCHARD

(October 26, 1987; from Tony Anthony; Birmingham, AL)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TAKASHI ISHIKAWA & MIGHTY INOU

(July 30, 1987; tournament final over Isamu Teranishi & Masanobu Kurusu;

Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 21, 1986; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS

(March 12, 1987; from Jumbo Tsuruta & Genichiro Tenryu; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(January 3, 1987; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: GENICHIRO TENRYU

(April 26, 1986; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-PACIFIC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CHIGUSA NAGYO

(April 27, 1987; from Lelani Kai; Osaka, Japan)

* AWA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MANNY FERNANDEZ

(November 2, 1987; from Billy Travis; Memphis, TN)

AWA INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Rocky Johnson & Bill Dundee)

* AWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(November 21, 1987; from Bobby Jaggers; Memphis, TN)

* AWA SOUTHERN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS

(November 22, 1987; from The RPMS; Memphis, TN)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP

(most recently held by Curt Hennig)

* AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DENNIS CONDREY & RANDY ROSE

(October 30, 1987; from Jerry Lawler & Bill Dundee; Whitewater, WI)

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: GAMA SINGH

(August 7, 1987; from Owen Hart; Calgary, Alberta)

CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: BULLDOG BOB BROWN

(October 25, 1987; from Earthquake Ferris; St. Joseph, MO)

* CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK McCORD & PORKCHOP CASH

(November 9, 1987; from Brad & Bart Batten; Versailles, MO)

FLORIDA CHAMPION: MIKE ROTUNDO

(April 18, 1987; over Sir Oliver Humperdink; Lakeland, FL)

FLORIDA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE KEIRN & MIKE GRAHAM

(October 17, 1987; from The Mighty Yankees; Lakeland, FL)

INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING GRAND PRIX CHAMPION: ANTONIO INOKI

(June 19, 1986; tournament final over Dick Murdoch; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

YOSHIAKI FUJIWARA & KAZUO YAMAZAKI

(September 1, 1987; from Akira Maeda & Nobuhiko Takada; Fukuoka, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP

(most recently held by Kuniaki Kobayashi)

JPANESE WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CHIGUSA NAGYO

(October 20, 1987; from Yukari Omori; Tokyo, Japan)

JPANESE WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BULL NAKANO & KANDOR SAITO

(October 20, 1987; from Kzue Nagahori & Umy Miogura; Tokyo, Japan)

* MID-AMERICA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JEFF JARRETT

(November 9, 1987; from Jimmy Jack Funk; Memphis, TN)

NWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NELSON ROYAL

(October 16, 1987; by NWA decision)

NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS & DUSTY RHODES

(May 17, 1986; from Ivan & Nikita Koloff and Baron Von Raschke; Baltimore)

NWA TV CHAMPION: NIKITA KOLOFF

(August 17, 1987; from Tully Blanchard; Fayetteville, NC)

* NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(November 26, 1987; from Ronnie Garvin; Chicago, IL)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON

(September 29, 1987; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Misenheimer, NC)

* PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: THE GRAPPLER

(October 31, 1987; from Mike Miller; Portland, OR)

* PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SCOTT PETERSON & STEVE DOLL

(November 7, 1987; from Joey Jackson & Super Ninja; Portland, OR)

PWF CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(April 24, 1987; tournament final over Hiroshi Wajima; Yokohama, Japan)

PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GENICHIRO TENRYU & ASHURA HARA

(September 3, 1987; from Stan Hansen & Austin Idol; Nagoya, Japan)

SOUTHEAST CHAMPION: DUTCH MANTEL

(April 13, 1987; from Exotic Adrian Street; Birmingham, AL)

* SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL CHAMPION: DUTCH MANTEL

(October 30, 1987; tournament final over Wendell Cooley; Knoxville, TN)

SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN

(May 25, 1987; from Jerry Stubbs & Tony Anthony; Birmingham, AL)

SOUTHEAST U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LARRY HAMILTON

(September 7, 1987; from Scott Armstrong; Birmingham, AL)

STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: OWEN HART

(April 10, 1987; from Makhan Singh; Calgary, Alberta)

* STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

BRUCE HART & BRIAN PILLMAN

(November 13, 1987; from Makhan Singh & Jerry Morrow; Calgary, Alberta)

TENNESSEE HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE: DOUG FURNAS

(July 17, 1987; tournament final over Tony Anthony; Knoxville, TN)

U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(July 11, 1987; from Nikita Koloff; Greensboro, NC)

* U.S. CHAMPION: DUSTY RHODES

(November 26, 1987; from Lex Luger; Chicago, IL)

U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

(May 16, 1987; tournament final over Barry Windham & Ronnie Garvin)

UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DIAMOND TIMOTHY FLOWERS

(April 3, 1987; from Billy Two Eagles; Vancouver, British Columbia)

UWA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CHAMPION: IRON MAIDEN

(October 13, 1987; over Delta Dawn; Cloverdale, British Columbia)

UWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE FROG

(September 12, 1987; from Karate Kid II; Cloverdale, British Columbia)

UWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: J.R. BUNDY & RICK DAVIS

(May 9, 1987; from Jonathan Sayers & Diamond Timothy Flowers; Vancouver, British Columbia)

UWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: STEVE WILLIAMS

(July 11, 1987; from Big Bubba Rogers; Oklahoma City)

UWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SHEEPHERDERS

(October 16, 1987; from Tim Horner & Brad Armstrong; Kansas City, KS)

* UWF TV CHAMPION: NIKITA KOLOFF

(November 26, 1987; from Terry Taylor; Chicago, IL)

WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: AL PEREZ

(October 26, 1987; by World Class officials' decision)

* WORLD CLASS JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHAUN SIMPSON

(November 26, 1987; from Eric Embry; Dallas, TX)

WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: FRANK LANCASTER & BRIAN ADIAS

(October 12, 1987; from Shaun Simpson & Skip Young; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD CLASS TV CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(May 22, 1987; reinstated by World Class officials)

* WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: MATT BORNE

(November 10, 1987; from Ted Arcidi; Midland, TX)

WORLD CLASS TEXAS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SKIP YOUNG & TONY ATLAS

(June 29, 1987; tournament final over Ted Arcidi & Texas Red; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD PACIFIC CHAMPION: SUPERFLY TUI

(April 11, 1987; from Super Machine I; Honolulu, HI)

WORLD PACIFIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: FARMER BOY IPO & LEROY BROWN

(August 9, 1986; from Mad Max & Super Max; Honolulu, HI)

WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SHERRI MARTEL

(July 24, 1987; from The Fabulous Moolah; Houston, TX)

WORLD WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN

(August 1985; from Desirée Petersen & Velvet McIntyre; Egypt)

* WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SAMOANS SAMU & FATU

(November 7, 1987; tournament final over The Invaders; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico)

WWC JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EL GRAN MENDOZA

(October 7, 1987; from Hurricane Castillo; Catano, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: TNT

(May 16, 1987; from Miguel Perez Jr.; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: KAREEM MUHAMMAD

(June 6, 1987; from Mighty Igor; Juaynabo, Puerto Rico)

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MR. POGO & KENDO NAGASAKI

(October 17, 1987; from Chris & Mark Youngblood; Caugus, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(September 20, 1987; from Hercules Ayala; Ponce, Puerto Rico)

WWC LADIES CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: THE HONKY TONK MAN

(June 2, 1987; from Rick Steamboat; Buffalo, NY)

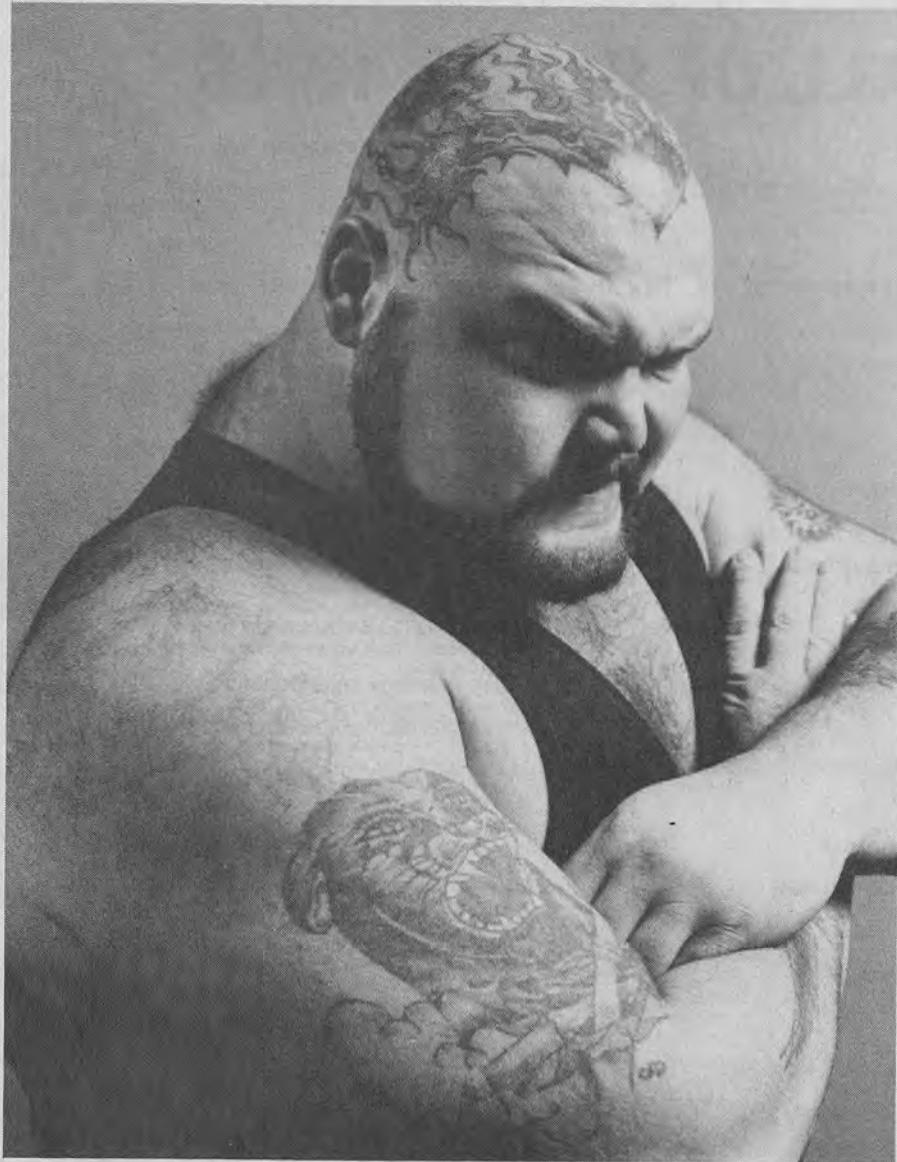
WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(January 23, 1984; from The Iron Sheik; New York, NY)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA

(October 27, 1987; The Hart Foundation; Syracuse, NY)

BAM BAM BIGELOW



A POPULAR STORY currently going around WWF dressing rooms concerns none other than World champion Hulk Hogan. The story goes that every night, Hogan kneels beside his bed and says his prayers. And just before he's ready to turn in, he whispers, "Thank you, Lord, for putting Bam Bam Bigelow on *my* side."

Whether there's any truth to this story is not known, and in reality it doesn't matter. The point it makes, however, *does* matter—and it has serious implications for every wrestler in the WWF, rulebreaker or fan favorite:

Bam Bam Bigelow, a 6'3", 390-pound monster with Herculean strength and Martelian agility, is wrestling's most dangerous man.

And although Hogan might think Bigelow is on *his* side, nothing could be further from the truth. In reality, there's only one side Bigelow has ever known: his own. Bigelow wrestles for himself. When he made Sir Oliver Humperdink his manager after a long controversy (nearly every manager in the WWF wanted Bigelow), he did so because it was best for *him*. It had nothing to do with not wanting to be a rulebreaker.

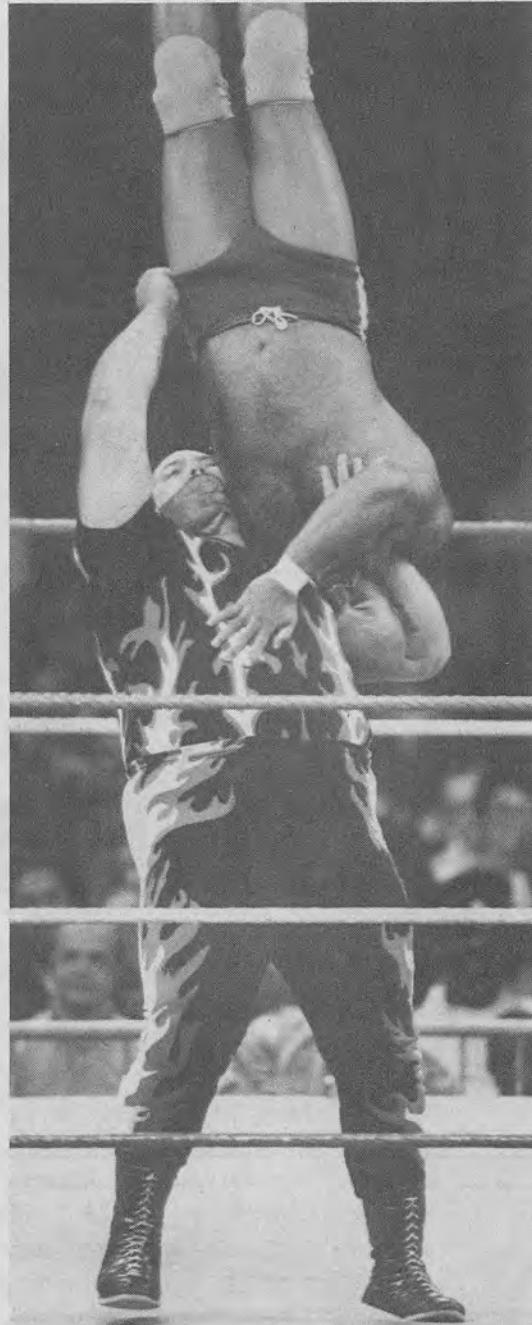
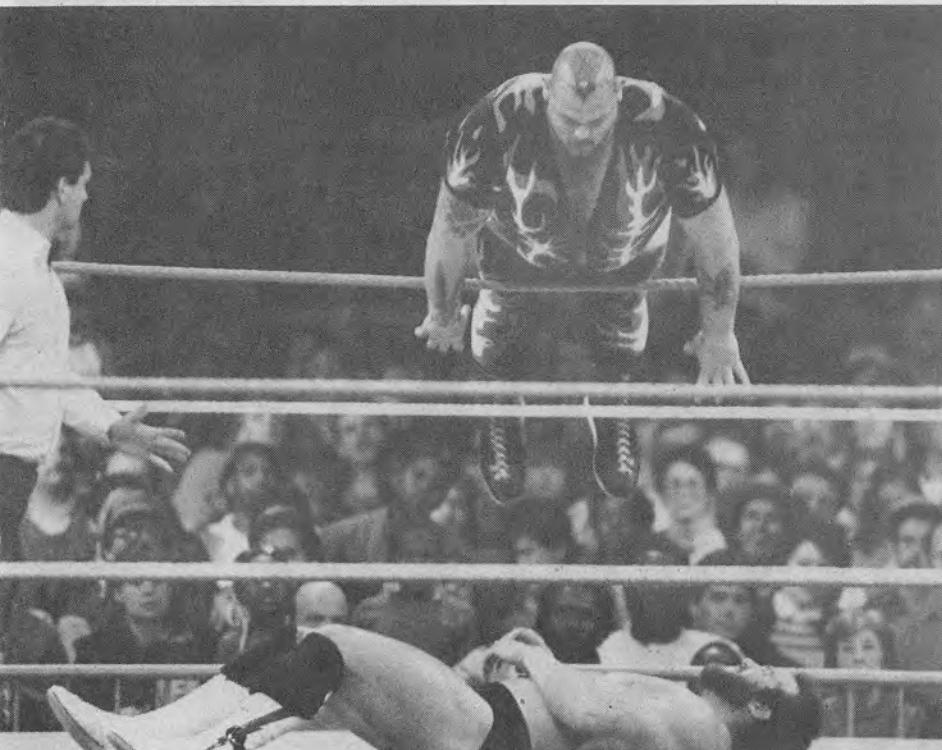
Bam Bam Bigelow doesn't follow the rules.

In fact, Bigelow doesn't even follow the rules of nature! He's too big and bulky to be so agile. A 390-pound man can't deliver dropkicks and fly around the ring like a man half his size. How can somebody have the size of Kamala, the strength of Hogan, and the aerial skills of Rick Martel? Bigelow does.

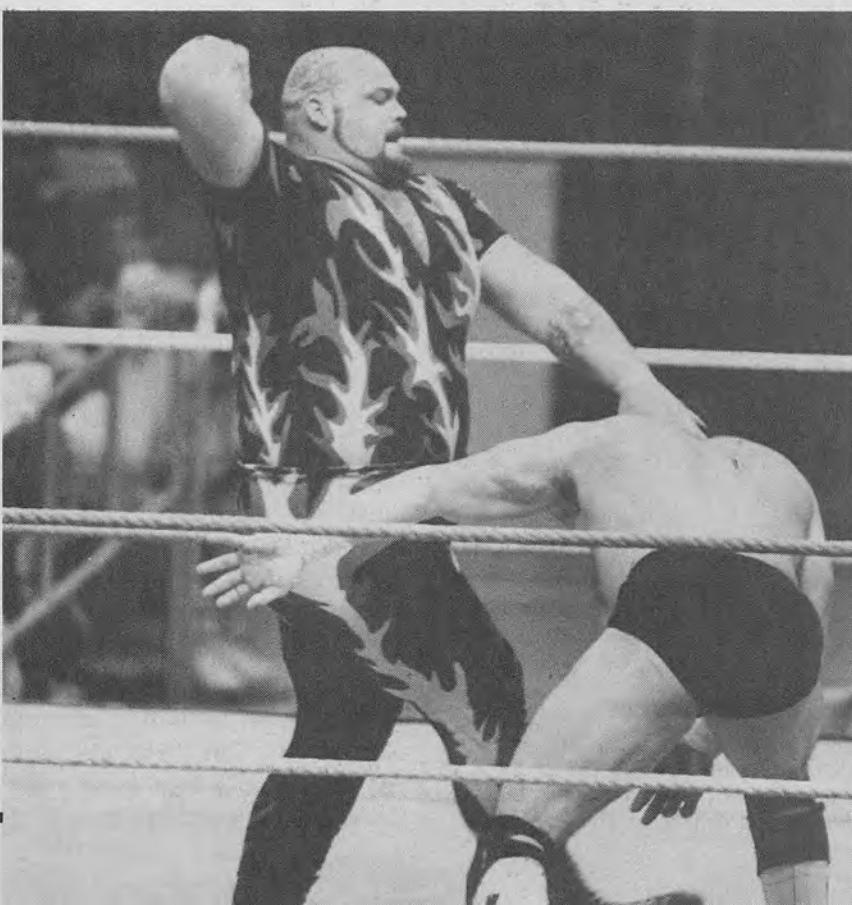
(Continued on page 56)

WRESTLING'S MOST DANGEROUS MAN!

A 6'3", 390-pound behemoth with frightening tattoos all over his body, Bam Bam Bigelow has developed into the most feared man in the WWF. He's beaten every man who's stood in his path. Now he's ready to stake his claim to a title belt!

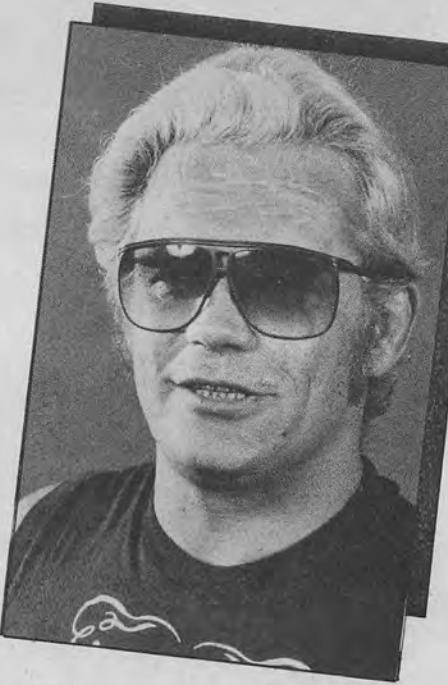


Bam Bam Bigelow performs a big splash on Hercules Hernandez (top left), hits Hernandez with a forearm (left), and suplexes Jose Estrada (above). These three points in Bigelow's repertoire make him a serious threat to the WWF title.





Terry Gordy & Buddy Roberts Declare:



“MICHAEL HAYES & JIM GARVIN ARE NOT THE FREEBIRDS!”

BEFORE THEIR RECENT break-up, The Freebirds were notoriously intolerant of outsiders. Subscribing to the Southern creed of “us vs. them,” they rarely socialized. Their philosophy was neatly summed up by Buddy Roberts, who one day told a reporter, “This world is filled with slugs and leeches and parasites. They all want a piece of Freebird fame. We don’t want *anyone*. We don’t *need* anyone. We choose our own company, and anyone who gets in our way gets their butt kicked. We are The Freebirds. We have each other—and that’s enough.”

An exception to the rule, a man invited and welcomed to all Free-



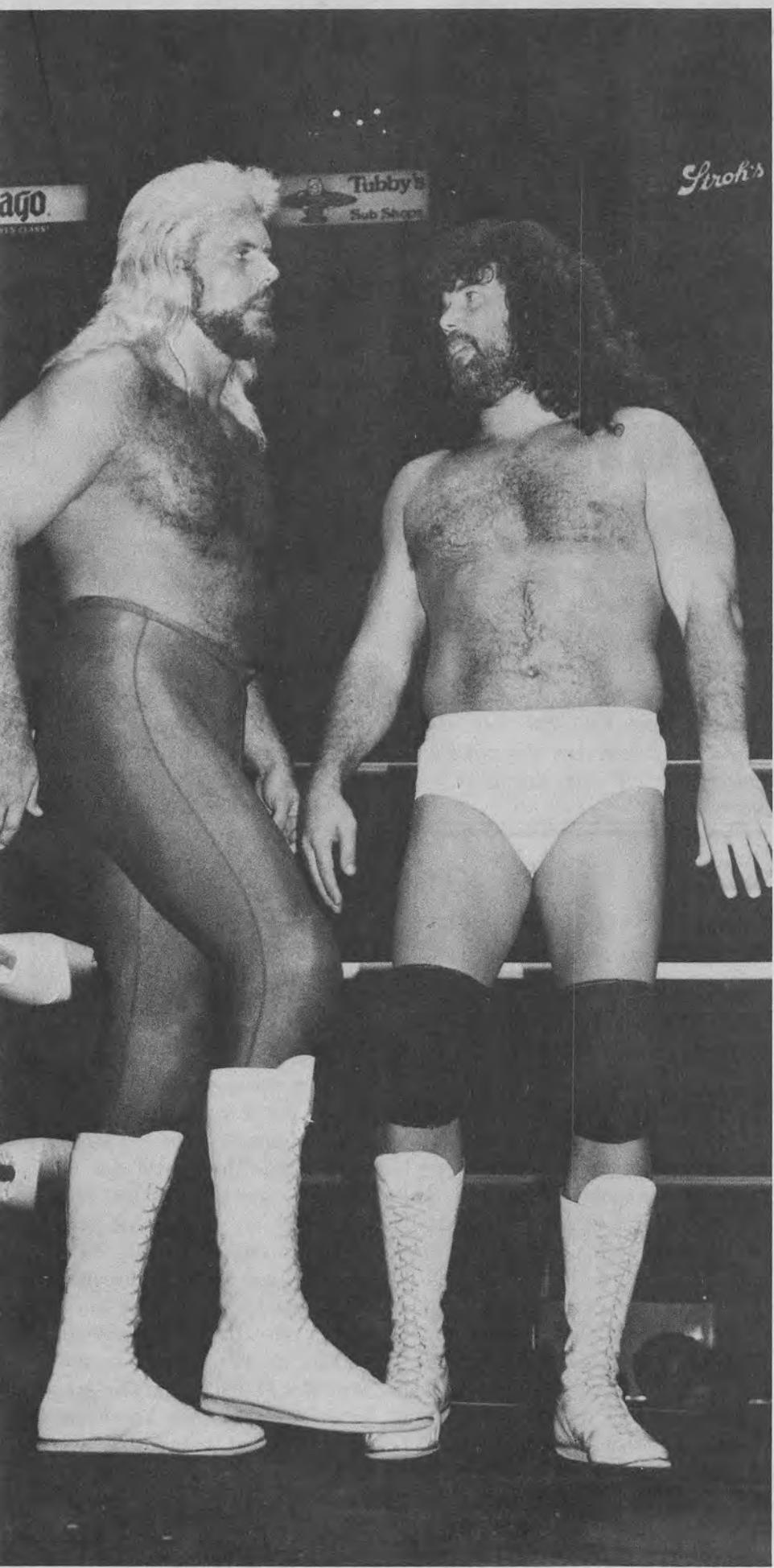
Jim Garvin holds Eddie Gilbert for a shot from Michael Hayes. Are Garvin and Hayes the second coming of The Freebirds?

bird functions, was “Gorgeous” Jimmy Garvin. In such high esteem did the team regard Garvin that unofficially he was referred to as the “fourth Freebird.” It was an honor never accorded anyone before or since.

“Garvin, he was all right,” said Terry Gordy. “He was a character, just like us. For a little guy, he could drink a ton. He loved to party and raise hell. And we didn’t mind having his girl around, either.”

“Yeah, we liked the little creep enough, I guess,” concedes Roberts, in what for him is an outpouring of affection. “He was as crazy as we were. A real head case.”

Whatever love Roberts and Gordy



may have once had for the "fourth Freebird" has soured. After The Freebirds dismantled, Garvin and Michael Hayes began tagging together, often under the moniker of The Fabulous Freebirds. Roberts and Gordy, both wrestling in different federations in Texas, were livid at the invasion of a title they consider their birthright. They hold Garvin responsible.

"It had to be Garvin's idea," says Gordy. "Michael would never dare abuse our name like that. At least I don't *think* he would. We don't have any ironclad legal agreement among us *not* to use the name Freebirds. We have something more lasting, something

Birds of a feather flock together . . . or do they? According to Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts there is trouble with The Freebirds that may require a dose of Confederate justice

etched in blood. It's called brotherhood. Collectively, we are The Freebirds. No one else is privileged to use that name."

Roberts is more emphatic. "I'd like to get my hands on that little twit," he cries. "If he thinks he's gonna get rich off the Freebird name, he better think twice. That name is sacred. It's holy. Only three people on this planet are entitled to use it. Jimmy Garvin ain't one of them. I should think that Michael Hayes would know that."

When reached at a North Carolina hotel, Hayes appeared surprised by the reaction of his former colleagues. "Are you sure you heard

(Continued on page 58)

HOTSEAT

NIKITA KOLOFF

"DUSTY RHODES HAS DISAPPOINTED ME"

AT STARRCADE '85, Nikita Koloff and Ivan Koloff defended their NWA World tag team championship against The Rock 'n' Roll Express. At Starrcade '86, U.S. champion Nikita Koloff wrestled Ric Flair for the NWA World title. At Starrcade '87, Nikita placed his NWA TV belt up against that of UWF TV champion Terry Taylor in a title unification match.

In one year, Nikita has regressed from wearing the U.S. belt and going after the World championship to merely trying to save his TV title. Jim Crockett Promotions pushed the title unification match for all it was worth, saying that this was a rare event and that the two men involved were outstanding athletes.

Indeed it was. Indeed they were. But the order on the NWA title totem pole is clear: World heavyweight title, World tag team championship, U.S. championship, U.S. tag title, and TV championship. Having held both the World tag and U.S. titles already, Nikita was on the right track when he went after the World title last year. So why the backward step?

Maybe it's time for Nikita Koloff to become a rulebreaker once again. Maybe his friendship with Dusty Rhodes has hurt him. Or maybe Nikita

Koloff just isn't as good as we thought he would be.

Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum discussed these hard questions with Nikita at the New York City office of *Inside Wrestling* one day prior to Starrcade.

“

Dusty is very good friend, but he has forgotten we were Crockett Cup winners. We have teamed very little since then. He has lost sight of our goals.

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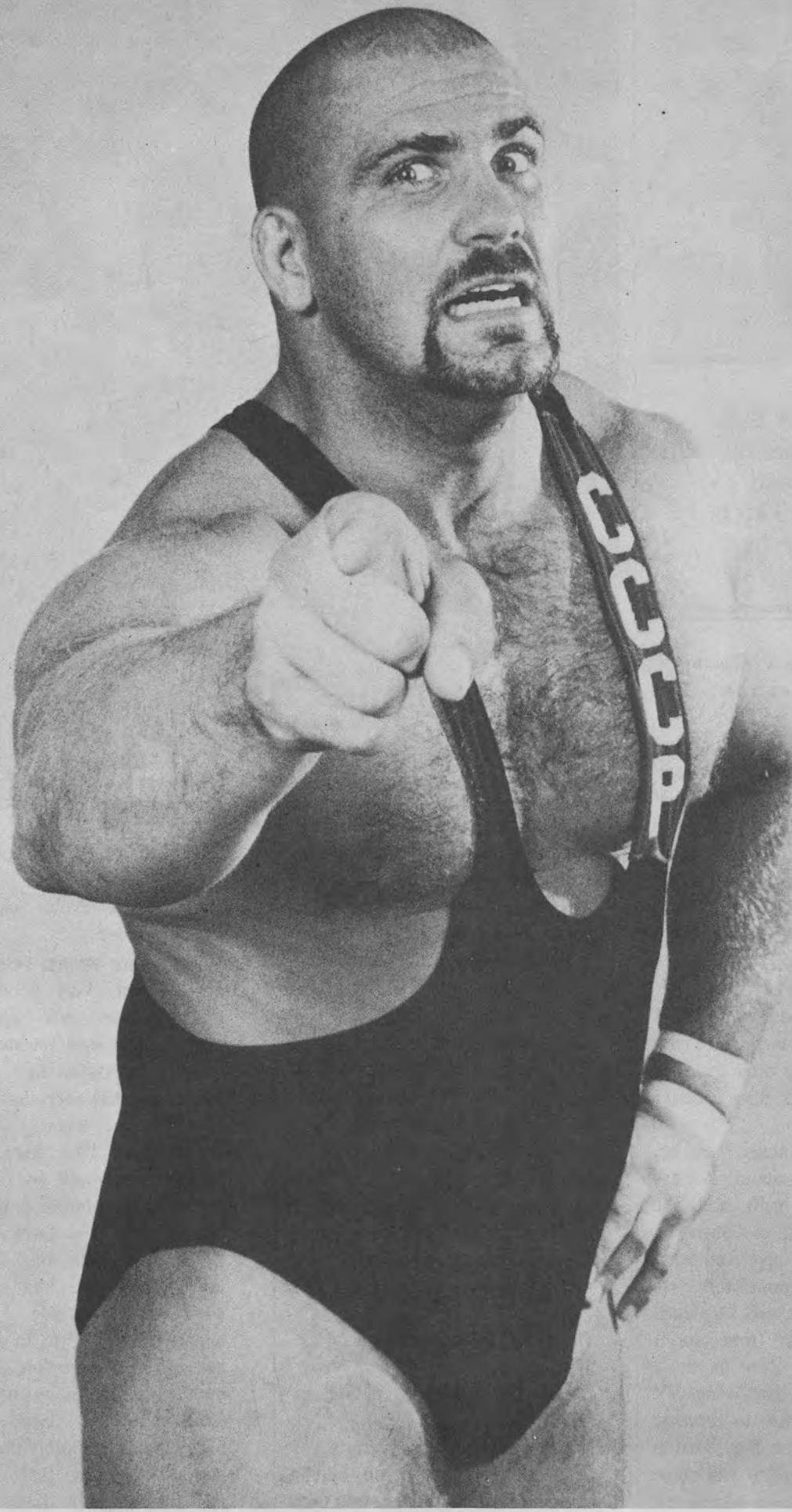
Q: Nikita, tomorrow evening is Starrcade, the biggest night of the year on the NWA calendar, but to a lot of people, including myself, the most important thing about Starrcade isn't whether or not you win your match against Terry Taylor. The question is: After all this time, after all you've achieved in wrestling, shouldn't you be wrestling for the World title or trying to regain your U.S. championship?

A: This is impossible. Ronnie Garvin is World champion. He is my

friend. Nikita does not wrestle friends.

Q: Okay, let's forget about Ronnie Garvin. It's pretty obvious that Ric Flair is the former champion and he deserves the match against Garvin at Starrcade. Besides, those guys have been going at it for a long time and the match is a natural. But it just doesn't make any sense that you're defending the TV title against Taylor while Dusty Rhodes is going after Lex Luger's U.S. championship. That sounds backward to me.

A: That is way things must be. After I lose U.S. championship, NWA offer me match against Tully Blanchard. I cannot wrestle Lex Luger every night. That would not be fair, so I take title shot and beat him. No way Nikita ever lose match to weakling like Tully Blanchard. So now I am TV champion and I must defend title. Only way I can go after U.S. title every day will cost me TV title and I do not want that. I am, what you say, victim of circumstance. You forget that good friend Dusty Rhodes was trying to win TV title from Tully Blanchard. Now I have TV title and he doesn't want to wrestle me, and I do not want to wrestle him.





“
I am former U.S.
champion, former tag team
champion, and TV
champion. This is
underachieving?
”

Dusty does not know what to do so he goes after Lex Luger. That make perfect sense.

Q: But you've *allowed* yourself to become a victim of circumstance, and for a wrestler with your talents that just can't happen. Let's look ahead past Starrcade now, since this magazine comes out after the show. Let's say you beat Terry Taylor and win the unified TV title. What will you do next?

A: How do you mean?

Q: Well, that would make you *the* TV champion, and it would give you even less time to go after the U.S. belt or the World title. Doesn't that concern you?

A: That is the way things must be. You do not understand. I have seen how things really are. We must put things in, uh, how you say, perspective. I have seen what happened to Magnum T.A. He was great champion and he almost had life taken away from him. I must take what is given to me. I must be thankful for being TV champion and work to become World champion one day. That is my ultimate goal and it will come in time. You must also understand



Nikita Koloff makes a wish on Lex Luger. Although Nikita values the importance of being patient, things have happened quickly in his career. Only weeks after losing the U.S. title to Luger, Nikita won the TV belt from Tully Blanchard.

one other thing. I love this country very much, but I am Russian. I was taught to be patient and work hard. Things do not come automatically. I am willing to wait.

Q: That's very noble of you, but you've been wrestling for over three years and there's no reason for you to wait. You've already been there, you've already held a major heavyweight title, and you've already had a series of World title shots. In fact, you came very close to beating Flair a number of times. You're a former World tag team champion. You and Dusty won the Crockett Cup . . .

A: Dusty has disappointed me.

Q: What was that?

A: I said Dusty Rhodes has disappointed me.

Q: Wait a minute, just before you were telling me that you were a victim of circumstance and you

had no choice but to go on defending your TV belt while Dusty went after Luger. Now what's this you're saying?

A: Don't get me wrong. Dusty is very good friend. Very good. I owe much to him. We have accomplished great deal together. But I do not understand how his mind works. He has forgotten we were Crockett Cup winners. We have teamed very little since then. I thought we would go for World tag team belts, but he is more concerned about Lex Luger. He also not seem to mind that I win TV title, like it give him excuse to wrestle for U.S. title. And what happens if he lose to Luger? Then he is out of wrestling for three months and we cannot prepare for Crockett Cup in 1988. I would have to choose another partner. He has also forgotten that we do all this for Magnum T.A., not for

ourselves. He has lost sight of our goals.

Q: Maybe Dusty is just old enough to realize that in wrestling you have to watch out for yourself.

A: That is not what he led me to believe.

Q: So are you considering turning against Dusty?

A: No, never. I cannot do that. He is good friends with Magnum T.A. I am good friends with Magnum T.A. We must fight his battle together. We are bound together for life.

Q: In other words, you're stuck with Dusty?

A: I did not say that.

Q: But you meant it.

A: I did not say that.

Q: He's always there to help when you're in trouble. Like when Tay-

Nikita challenges Terry Taylor (below), carries Ric Flair back into the ring (bottom left), wins the Crockett Cup win with Dusty Rhodes (bottom right).



lor stole your TV title.

A: That is a truth.

Q: And now you're going to turn your back on him?

A: You reporters like to put words in Nikita's mouth. Nikita can speak for himself. Dusty is good friend. Good friends sometimes disappoint, but that does not make them not good friends anymore.

Q: So, then, what does the future hold for Nikita Koloff? We still haven't answered that question.

A: Yes we have. I have told you. I must work hard. I must spend long hours in gym and watching tapes. I will improve wrestling abilities. That is the only way anything can get done.

Q: You're willing to become a victim of circumstance once again?

A: You make fun of TV title. You make it sound like it is nothing. It is very important title. Like Dusty say, it is the belt for the fans. It is belt people see on TV all the time. I am proud to be TV champion. It is nothing to be ashamed of.

Q: That's true. But there's nothing worse in life than being labeled an underachiever.

A: I am former U.S. champion. I am former tag team champion. I am TV champion. Only belt I have not won is World championship. This is underachieving?

Q: Yes, when you should be World



“

I do not back down from any opponents. I have turned my back on my family, my country, to do what I thought was right.

”

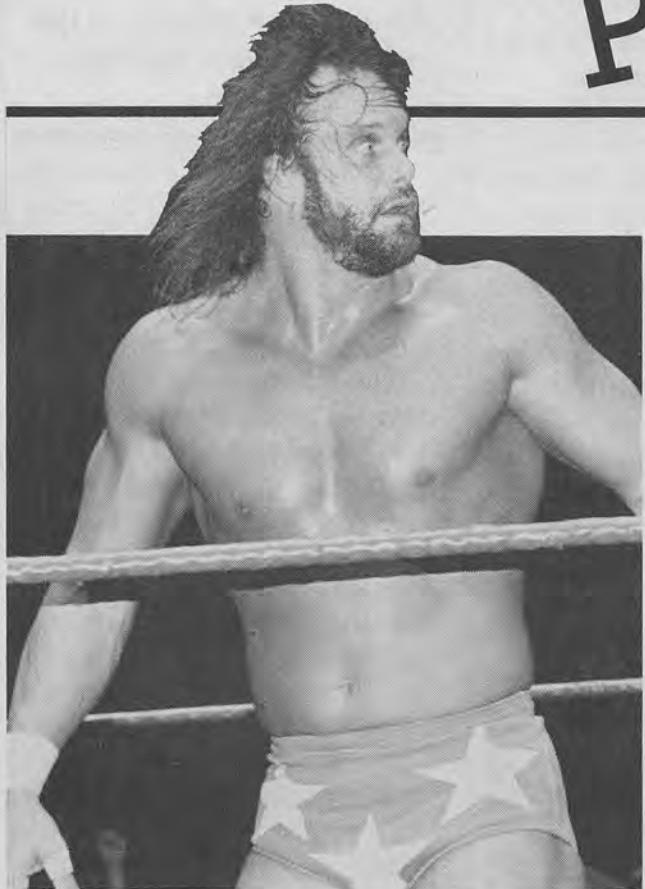
champion. Let's put it this way: At your age, you shouldn't be settling. You should be on top. The TV title shouldn't be your goal right now. You should be working for the World title, not a TV title. I think you've regressed.

A: And so has this conversation. Why do you insist on making fun of my achievements? I have done whatever I could. I do not get beaten. I do not back down from any opponents. I have fought very noble cause. I have given up a lot for this sport. I have turned my back on my family, my country, to do what I thought was right. I do not deserve to be criticized for this.

Q: I'm not criticizing. I am actually one of your greatest admirers. It's just that everybody in wrestling wants to see you do more.

A: Americans are always asking for more. Back in Soviet Union, people are happy with what is given them. They are not greedy. It is one thing I never understand about this country. Maybe one day I will. I learn different things every day. All I know is that I will be World champion one day. And maybe I will be TV champion for long time, too. We shall see. □

The Honky Tonk Man's Secret Plan:



A TRIP TO "Heartbreak Hotel" seems imminent for Intercontinental champion The Honky Tonk Man. As a result of his disgraceful actions, the wrestling world's answer to Elvis Presley has found himself targeted for destruction by two of the most skilled and dangerous men in wrestling, both former I-C champions: Rick Steamboat and Randy Savage.

Steamboat, the man Honky Tonk defeated for the Intercontinental title last June, has now returned to full-time wrestling after a three-month hiatus. "The Dragon" seems sharper than ever and is anxious to

regain the strap that most observers feel was lost on a wild fluke. Steamboat is outraged by Honky Tonk's underhanded tactics and by his assertion that he is the *best* I-C champ of all time.

But if Steamboat is burning for revenge, Savage is a raging inferno.

A large part of the country witnessed Honky Tonk's heinous attack on Savage and Elizabeth during November's *Saturday Night's Main Event*. Hulk Hogan's interference saved Savage from serious injury, but the "Macho Man" is now obsessed with avenging himself against not only Honky Tonk, but also The Hart Foundation, who aided in the attack.

Yet Honky Tonk doesn't seem overly worried by the twin threats of Savage and Steamboat.

People say he has a plan.

Indeed, he grows more arrogant and out of touch with reality with each passing day. He brags that he's "the only man who walks around New York City looking for a fight." He is more interested in pursuing a musical career and practicing his singing and dancing than he is in honing his often-criticized wrestling skills. He's been seen in New York's trendy Hard Rock Cafe more often than in any gym.

It's easy to relax—when you have a plan.

"I'm The Honky Tonk Man. I'm cool, I'm cocky, and I'm bad," goes a line from his song on the *Piledriver* album. Is this why he's taking the threat from Steamboat and Savage so lightly? Or are there other reasons?

Well, The Honky Tonk Man has a plan for them.



TURN SAVAGE AND STEAMBOAT AGAINST EACH OTHER AGAIN!

Time seems to be running out for The Honky Tonk Man and his WWF Intercontinental title reign. But a brilliant stroke of strategy could keep the I-C belt firmly around the Memphis madman's wildly gyrating waist!

Not a terribly complex plan, but a plan that, for all its simplicity, has remained more or less a secret. Why? Sometimes you just can't see the forest for the trees.

"My enemy's enemy is my friend" is an ancient Chinese proverb that, in the case of Steamboat, Savage, and Honky Tonk, fits perfectly.

If Honky Tonk could succeed in rekindling the Savage-Steamboat feud, his reign would then be secure. So far (and with the aid of Jimmy Hart), Honky Tonk has shown himself to be a master at manipulating friends to his benefit. Psyching out his enemies might be a little harder, but hardly impossible for men of Honky Tonk's talent and Jimmy Hart's craftiness.

Savage and Steamboat share a common hatred for The Honky Tonk Man. Some say that it's the only thing that keeps them from renewing their incredible feud, a feud that saw each man nearly kill the other!

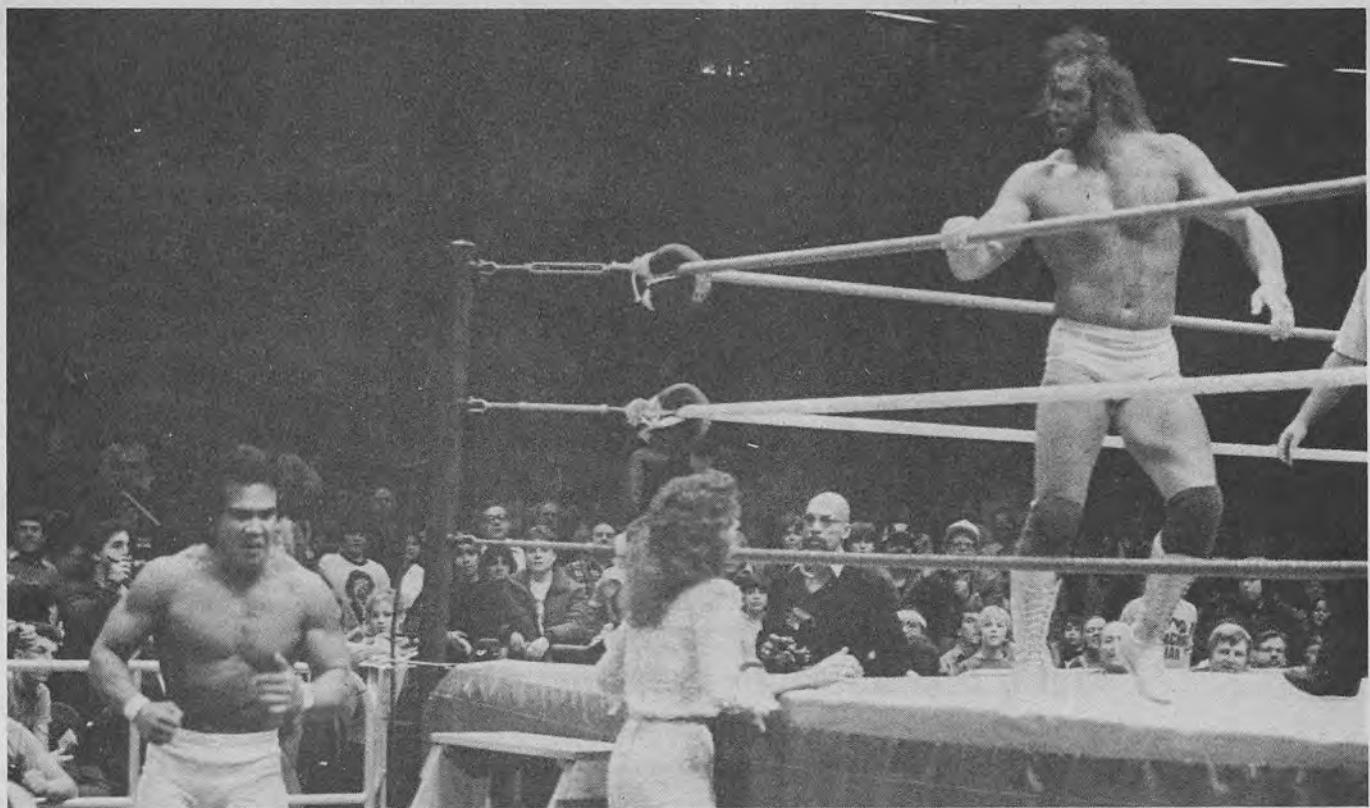
When Honky Tonk defeated Steamboat for the Intercontinental title, the Steamboat-Savage war was still raging. As most informed analyses pointed out at the time, the fact that the two were too busy trying to kill each other to bother with Honky Tonk gave the Tennessean valuable time to consolidate his hold on the title.

For now, Steamboat and Savage have declared a truce (some say that Savage's new friendship with Hulk Hogan has had a major effect on the "Macho Man's" relative mellowness toward Steamboat). But few observers think that this cease-fire can last.

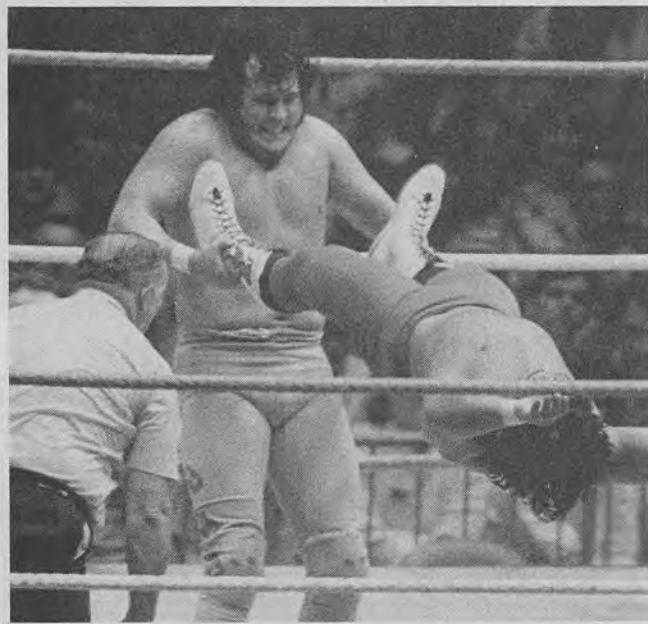


Indeed, hatred like that experienced by Steamboat and Savage can never be eliminated, only subdued. And if Honky Tonk manipulates his foes properly, he could, as a matador playing two raging bulls, use his position as champion to bring about a new collision between "The Dragon" and the "Macho Man."

What if Honky Tonk managed to bamboozle the WWF commissioners into a contract stating that his next title defense would see him meet the winner of a Savage-Steamboat match? That would force them to square off. Who could imagine or begin to predict



Randy Savage challenges Rick Steamboat to get back in the ring (above). The Honky Tonk Man flips Steamboat off the ropes (below left). Savage has Honky Tonk thoroughly confused (below right). Honky Tonk knows that Savage and Steamboat still harbor deep resentment for one another, and he plans to use that to his advantage.



the result?

Or Honky Tonk could fan the embers of the still-smoldering feud by praising one and insulting the other: "I am the greatest Intercontinental champion of all time," one can almost hear him saying, "but Steamboat's a close second. Savage is nothing."

Then all Honky Tonk has to do is duck Savage for a few matches. The "Macho Man" might decide that if he can't attain his goal, at least he can sideline his rival.

Few observers would expect a clean scientific

match between Savage and Steamboat, as the "Macho Man's" bruising, brawling style is not conducive to clean matches. With each blow landed, the memories of past injuries would return to both men. Their hatred for the Honky Tonk Man would be forgotten—perhaps permanently—in the renewed war that would result. In arenas around the country, the clash of combat would again be heard.

Along with the laughter of a certain Honky Tonk Man. Cool, cocky . . . and happy. And still champion. □



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The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

FROM THE 1950s through the '70s, two men dominated wrestling in the American Wrestling Association: Larry Hennig and Verne Gagne. Gagne, the nine-time World champion, successfully defended his title many times against Hennig, who himself was a co-holder of the World tag team title on four occasions.

In wrestling, feuds can last not only for years, but for generations. Larry's son, Curt, and Gagne's son, Greg, inherited many of their fathers' skills and attitudes—along with an intense hatred for each other's families. The two sons have begun their own feud, as Greg seeks to strip Curt of the AWA World title. And it comes as no surprise that their fathers have not been able to stay out of the war.

In a November 1 match in Minneapolis that featured Verne and Larry at ringside, Greg came tantalizingly close to dethroning Hennig. The end of the match came when Larry, unable to sit back while his son was on the verge of losing the title, took it upon himself to interfere. The elder Hennig felled Greg with his "ax attack," a devastating clothesline. Larry then rolled Curt on top of Greg for the three-count while a stunned Verne watched in disbelief.

A Thanksgiving day rematch was announced, this time with the fathers banned from ringside—but not from the audience. Larry Hennig immediately announced that he had purchased a block of tickets for the entire Hennig clan. Gagne's plans remained un-

ONE O



"It just burns you up that you never beat me for the heavyweight title, even though you broke just about every rule in the book. I was always one step ahead of you."

—Verne Gagne

known. On the eve of the match, *Inside Wrestling* succeeded in bringing the elder statesmen of this four-way feud together for an exchange of opinions . . . "One on One."

LARRY HENNIG:

Well, well, look who we have here, the Thanksgiving turkey one day early! I'm surprised you had the nerve to even talk to me after that cowardly display in Minneapolis. What the heck happened to you, Gagne? Were you glued to your seat? Or maybe you didn't have the guts to get up and defend your wimp of a son. Man, the apple certainly doesn't fall far from the tree.

VERNE GAGNE:

Hennig, Hennig, Hennig. I thought age had finally succeeded in mellowing you, but now I see

that you're still rotten to the core. I'll admit I was shocked by what you did—I was ready to see my son crowned AWA champion, not victimized by an evil sneak-attack. But we'll both be ready for you in tomorrow's match, now that we know once and for all what you're made of!

LH: It took you long enough, Gagne, because I've always known what you're made of. You hide behind those championship belts of yours and talk about what a great wrestler you were, but all that time you'd give us that self-righteous crap about scientific wrestling and following the rules while you cheated and paid off the AWA to keep your belt.

VG: What are you talking about? Why you . . .

LH: Shut up, Gagne. Things have

IN ONE



"Now there's a Hennig on top and you just can't take it. My son's a second-generation genius while yours is an embarrassment to every Gagne that's come before him."

—Larry Hennig

changed. Now there's a Hennig on top and you just can't take it. It affects your perverted sense of decency. My son's a second-generation genius while yours is an embarrassment to every Gagne that's come before him. And that's saying something.

VG: You're saying nothing that resembles the truth—about either me or my son. It just burns you up that you never beat me for the heavyweight title, even though you broke just about every rule in the book to do it. But I was always one step ahead of you, because I knew what you were made of back then. And about Greg, I think I should point out one very important point. Curt is champion, sure, but we all know how he got the title. And I'll tell you this—Greg would have been

champ his first year if he decided to break the rules like Curt has. I know you'll never understand this, but I'm more proud of Greg right now than if he was champion—because he plays by the rules. He knows that a title's only as good as the way it's gained. And he'd rather lose than stoop to such measures as using a foreign object or calling in other people to pull his chestnuts out of the fire.

LH: He certainly didn't have to scream too much to get *you* involved. But I bet this isn't the first time you had to come to the rescue of that wimpy son of yours. I've seen plenty of men like him, and they're all losers. Greg Gagne doesn't have any guts, so he invents this self-righteous attitude.

VG: Self-righteous? I think a lot of

people have more respect for the Gagnes' way of doing things than the Hennigs'. We're not alone in our attitude.

LH: Now *that* sounds like the Verne Gagne I've always known. You're always more concerned with what other people think than you are about the reality of things. And the reality is that right now, my son Curt is the AWA World champion. And it really doesn't matter *how* he did it, because he did it. You're so worried about respect. You know, when my son made the mistake of teaming with Greg, it was *Curt* who carried the load. That team would've been nothing if not for Curt, and everybody knew it. If you ask me, Greg's still sulking over Curt leaving him flat and exposing him as a nothing.

VG: You're still sulking over never having beaten me, and you've succeeded at infecting your son with your own hatred. A son who should have been left alone to follow his natural inclinations, which were sound enough in spite of having you as a father. A son who was a fine scientific wrestler and a popular and worthy role model for today's youth. A son who . . .

LH: . . . who can beat the living crap out of you and your son any day of the week! I'll tell you one more thing, Gagne: You've always gone around calling yourself the greatest AWA World champion of all time, but you're nothing compared to Curt, and you know it. I'll be the first to admit that Curt did what his old man never could, but he's learned more than a few lessons from me and I'm proud of him. And as for never beating you, Gagne, that'll change someday, too. If I were you, I'd write my will. Fast. Except that you'll have nobody to give anything to, 'cause your son's going, too.

VG: Well, Hennig, I remember you making the same empty threats before all of our title matches. And we all know how they turned out. Times may have changed, but you're still the same old bitter, frustrated man that you were all that time. And after tomorrow night, you'll have one *more* thing to be bitter about. □

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 6)

only been pinned four times in the past six years. Who else can say that?

JEFF HUTCHISON
Youngstown, OH

MEMPHIS MAGIC

Memphis is one of the biggest hotbeds for wrestling in the U.S. today, yet it doesn't get the attention it deserves. On all your magazine covers it's always Hulk Hogan, Dusty Rhodes, The Four Horsemen, and so on. The same goes for your centerfolds and color photographs.

This is a small list of the men Memphis has produced over the past few years: Wayne "Honky Tonk Man" Farris, Randy Savage, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, The Midnight Express, Tommy "Wildfire" Rich, Jerry "The King" Lawler, Austin Idol, and Bill Dundee. The list is endless.

As far as managers go, Jimmy Hart, Jim Cornette, and Paul E. Dangerously all started their careers here. And a lot of your readers probably never



Jim Cornette and Jimmy Hart were once cohorts in Memphis, as Edsel Harrison points out. Some famous (and infamous) wrestlers got their start in the Mid-Southern area.

heard of The Fabulous Jackie Fargo, but in his prime he could have defeated Ric Flair or Hogan on any given night.

Your magazine has great stories and photographs, but please, how about a little more from Memphis?

EDSEL HARRISON
Chattanooga, TN

TRUST SULLIVAN

It seems that everyone is saying that Kevin Sullivan is a lunatic who's gone over the edge. Your magazine has said he needs help; other people have said he's a nut case and not to be trusted.



Kevin Sullivan chops J.J. Dillon. Reader Bill Walkowitz writes that Sullivan may be a maniac, but he's also a good man who's fighting for what's right.

I've always been a fan of Sullivan. Through thick and thin, I have supported him. So what if he just rambles on about the dark side and light side? Big deal if he rambles on about what year he thinks it is, who's world champion, and so on. He's fighting for what's right, which is what I've been hoping he would do for years.

He may be a maniac, but he's still a feared man inside the squared circle. In the last year he's beaten the best Florida has to offer, he's the former Southeast Continental champion, he beat Lex Luger for the now-defunct Southern title, he was in the Crockett Cup tag team tournament with Arn Anderson.

(Continued on page 50)

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 49)

son, and he ran Oliver Humperdink out of Florida, something many have tried over the years and failed to do.

It's a good thing Humperdink left for safer pastures, because Sullivan would've destroyed him. Sure, he feuded with Dusty Rhodes (a man I worship and pattern my life after), but people are allowed to make mistakes, and he's making up for them now. On a recent *World Wide Wrestling* show, Sullivan spoke well of Dusty and gave him some good advice: "Don't place a lock around a chicken house without first looking in, because in that chicken house there might be a cobra." It's good, sound advice to me.

People have got to have faith in Sullivan and learn to trust him. He may be no angel—and he's no stranger to the street—but he's fighting to make things right, and he won't crumble at your feet.

BILL M. WALKOWITZ

Chicago

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MACHO-MISTAKE

I've just read the article on Randy Savage in your December 1987 issue ("Warning To Randy Savage: The Fans Will Make You Or Break You"), and unfortunately I've come to the conclusion that the "Macho Man" will be hurt by his move to fan favorite.



Randy Savage targets his foe for a flying axhandle. In Denise Jenkins' opinion, the "Macho Man" never should have befriended Hulk Hogan because it cost him a shot at the WWF World title.

First of all, he's blowing his chance of beating Hulk Hogan. In my opinion, Savage has a very good chance of beating Hogan. His ruthless style, sensational wrestling skills, and dedicated drive are the things he needs to become champion.

But now Savage has decided to become a totally different person than what he was just a few months ago. Remember what he did to Rick Steamboat? He tried to kill him! And now as a fan favorite, he's getting beat up by no less than The Honky Tonk Man.

If Elizabeth really cares about Savage, she'll stop him before it's too late.

DENISE JENKINS
Philadelphia □

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)

DiBiase asked with a wide grin. "You look like you could use 10 grand."

At this point, Roberts walked to the center of the ring, made an obscene gesture toward DiBiase (so much for moral character), and invited DiBiase into the ring. What happened afterward—Roberts eventually fought off DiBiase and won the battle royal—was irrelevant compared to DiBiase's stunning offer.

Who says wrestling doesn't raise important moral and sociological questions? Money or personal achievement? How many people would have turned down the \$10,000? Weren't Hernandez and Bravo in the majority?

Of course, WWF officials were probably more concerned with the legal questions and the effect DiBiase's actions can have on the integrity of wrestling. Hernandez and Bravo accepted the bribe. They threw a match for cash. Hernandez and Bravo now keep company with the Chicago Black Sox, who threw the 1919 World Series, and the Boston College basketball players involved in a recent point-shaving scandal.

Of course, WWF fans can be a shallow bunch, and they walked out of the Meadowlands very pleased that Roberts had won the match. But Roberts was a sure loser if not for DiBiase—he was at a three-on-one disadvantage when Hernandez and Bravo took the dive—and benefited greatly from his generosity. Any way you look at it, the battle royal was tainted. The match was tampered with; a sporting event became an auction.

As for Roberts, I'm not too sure he wouldn't have taken the cash if Hernandez and Bravo turned it down. Roberts had little chance of winning the match, and besides, he isn't exactly of high moral character. This is a man who intimidates his opponents with a huge

boa constrictor and attacks them with it as they lay helpless on the mat. Fairness and integrity mean nothing to Roberts, so what's wrong with taking \$10,000? But once Hernandez and Bravo took the bribe, he had a chance to win the match, the money that went with it, and the admiration of the fans.

DiBiase cannot be allowed to go on like this. Paying the *maître d'* to get a table in a crowded restaurant is nothing new; it's done all the time. Tampering with the outcome of a wrestling match is something else. Unfortunately, WWF officials did nothing about it. No fine or suspension was announced. The incident was forgotten. Now the WWF must hope it doesn't happen again, but we all know it will. We also know that one day DiBiase's offer will be accepted by all parties involved and he'll have bought himself a victory.

How much does Hulk Hogan want for the World heavyweight championship?

What's an Intercontinental title going for these days?

These are disturbing questions that must be addressed. On March 20, 1983, Larry Zbyszko paid Killer Brooks \$25,000 for the Georgia National title that Brooks had won from Paul Orndorff only moments earlier in Atlanta. While Zbyszko was subsequently stripped of the title (on April 30), the scandal rocked the NWA. The National title lost most of its prestige during the incident, a loss from which it never recovered.

And DiBiase, an outstanding scientific wrestler whose arrival in the WWF was met with great anticipation, is threatening to throw the WWF into a similar whirlwind of turmoil.

He says that everybody has their price. Unfortunately, he's probably right. □

BACK ISSUES OF



June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel, Adonis & Ventura, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo, Steamboat & Rich, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler, Ric Flair, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera, Rick Steamboat, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski, Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham, Mil Mascaras, Valentine, Ornford, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton, Rick Martel, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff, Tommy Rich, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbysko, Roddy Piper, Sullivan, Zbysko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, Tommy Rich, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper, Harley Race, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel, Dusty Rhodes, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race, Rick Martel, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine, Greg Valentine, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdulah.

May 1984/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Butch Reed, Hulk Hogan, Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater, Ted DiBiase, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering, Jimmy Valiant, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen, Jerry Lawler, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack, Jerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana, Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A., Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham, Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

GIANT FULL-COLOR PINUP OF SGT. SLAUGHTER WILL THE FANS CHEER FOR THE ROAD WARRIOR?



JULY 1985

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan vs. Piper, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams, Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.



DECEMBER 1985

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura, Great American Bash, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan, Hulk Hogan, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff, Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair, Wendi Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat, Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich, Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy, R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes, Randy Savage, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd, Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll, British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash, Great American Bash, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

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Victory Sports Wrestling



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Rock'n'Roll Express
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ADAMS VS. PEREZ

(Continued from page 31)

Adams' brutal feud with Kevin and Kerry lasted for about two years. Then, in 1985, Adams fired Hart following a controversy in an "I Quit" match. Hart proceeded to send several members of his stable against Adams, who by now was feuding with virtually every wrestler in the World Class area.

Their feud re-erupted in 1986 when Adams returned to the area after regaining his eyesight. Again, Adams befriended the Von Erichs and renewed his rivalry with Hart. When Adams won the WCCW title from Rick Rude, Hart had a stable of wrestlers waiting for him. But Adams shortly thereafter signed with the UWF.



Adams comes down on Perez with a knee drop. Chris thinks he'll win the title because Hart is unfamiliar with his current style.

Upon his return to World Class, Adams ironically found himself chasing after a World Class title held by a Hart-managed grappler. But he isn't concerned.

"I think that gives me an edge," said Adams. "Nobody knows Gary Hart better than me, and nobody knows his strategies better—not even Perez. You see, Hart hasn't changed at all since he managed me. But I have. I'm more of a scientific wrestler than I was back then. I'm not a rulebreaker anymore. In other words, I know Hart better than he knows me. And if I know Hart, I



know Perez—because Hart always makes his men wrestle *his way*."

Hart is certainly the centerpiece of this feud, which figures to bring World Class fans an excellent level of wrestling. Despite Hart's rule-breaking influence, Perez is an outstanding scientific wrestler. Because of Hart's influence, Perez has become much more dangerous. Adams, of course, has a world of experience and scientific skills. He can deal with almost anything.

"Perhaps that's true," admitted Hart, "but can he deal with Al Perez? Let's face it, Mr. Perez is the finest young star in wrestling. He's the best scientific wrestler I've ever seen. He has an amazing body and he's dedicated to his craft. With my strategy and his ability, there's no way anybody can beat us, including Adams. Adams may think he's changed, but he's still the same wrestler he was five years ago with the same faults. He's very beatable."

Perez, however, will have his hands full with Adams. The title nearly changed hands when they wrestled on November 13 in Dallas. Adams dominated the match and was about to finish him off with a superkick when Perez pushed referee John Keaton in the way. Keaton was accidentally kicked by Adams and fell through the ropes.

Perez then tossed Adams out of the ring. But Chris, in an amazing

Adams accidentally superkicks referee John Keaton, whom Perez had pushed in his way (above). Thinking that he's won the belt, Adams celebrates (below), only to learn the decision was reversed.



display of athletic prowess, executed a brilliant sunset flip from the ring apron. Adams covered Perez for the pin and substitute Bronco Lubich made the three-count. Adams' good fortune changed, however, when Keaton came back into the ring and disqualified Adams for kicking him. The crowd booed and Perez breathed a sigh of relief. At ringside, Hart looked worried.

"He knows," said Adams, "that it's only a matter of time before I have that belt in my hands once again. I've already shown I can beat Perez. And I know I can overcome anything Hart throws at me.

"I can read his mind."

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BAM BAM BIGELOW

(Continued from page 35)

There's no way to counter Bigelow's style, because the man knows every style.

Bigelow has already mowed down an extremely impressive list of top WWF stars. It took months for Hogan to deal with Killer Khan; Bigelow defeats him with ease every time they meet. King Kong Bundy? No problem. Even Hercules Hernandez, one of the strongest men in the WWF, has fallen prey to Bam Bam. Bigelow's latest challenger is One Man Gang, but even the Gang seems too one-dimensional to gain the upper hand in this feud.

The Humperdink-Bigelow combination is as lethal as everyone expected it to be, certainly as Humperdink said it would be just before he left Florida for the WWF.

"Bam Bam Bigelow is the kind of wrestler who can change the world," said Humperdink said at the time. "There really isn't a man like him because he can do so much. But the best thing about him is his killer instinct. I've never seen a man take more joy in punishing opponents. I remember watching some of his matches when he was in the Mid-Southern area. He'd just keep a match going so he could injure his opponent. The man takes pride in the pain he delivers. That attitude, combined with his size and abilities, makes him the most dangerous man I've ever seen."

Bigelow has always had a thirst for blood. Before becoming a wrestler, Bigelow was a bounty hunter. He left that profession after getting shot in the back in Mexico. Larry Sharpe, who trains prospective wrestlers at The Monster Factory in Mt. Holly, New Jersey, discovered Bigelow and encouraged him to try his hand at wrestling. Bigelow, who once said that wrestling appealed to him because "it gives me the chance to make money and hurt people at the same time," was a natural.

The first year of Bigelow's career, however, was nearly ruined by instability. That year, he made several moves



Bigelow dropkicks Terry Gibbs. If he wants a belt, Bigelow will have to go after The Honky Tonk Man's Intercontinental title because he won't get a shot at Hulk Hogan as long as he is a fan favorite.

and wrestled in three different federations: Mid-Southern, World Class, New Japan, and Mid-Southern again. Despite this, he was voted first runner-up in the 1986 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Rookie of the Year poll. It was clear that if Bigelow ever settled down, he had the potential for greatness.

Vince McMahon Jr., who has as keen an eye for talent—especially developed talent—as any man in wrestling, was impressed by Bigelow and sent his scouts out to sign him to a contract. With the big bucks and nationwide attention of the WWF staring him in the face, Bigelow quickly accepted McMahon's offer.

Now, after a shaky beginning in which most people were more concerned with whom Bigelow would choose as his manager than with how he well wrestled, Bam Bam seems to have finally settled down. With Humperdink's guidance, he's followed a well-planned course to establish himself in the WWF. "Unless you're Hulk Hogan, you just don't come into the WWF and start wrestling for titles," said former champion Bob Backlund. "Whatever you've done in the past doesn't matter. You have to prove yourself against WWF competition."

Bigelow has clearly proven himself. He's shown that he can beat the top wrestlers in the WWF. All that remains is a shot at Hogan or Intercontinental champion The Honky Tonk Man, and Humperdink is currently negotiating with WWF officials. Hogan, however, appears to be in no hurry to wrestle Bigelow, and that match isn't likely to come off anyway because both are fan favorites.

So Honky Tonk is the target, a prospect that can't please manager Jimmy Hart. Honky Tonk can cheat to avoid losing the title to Randy Savage or Steamboat, but there'll be no way out against Bigelow, who very likely would thrash Honky Tonk in the opening minutes.

But Bigelow especially covets a shot at Hogan and may be willing to take drastic steps to get it. Bigelow is a rulebreaker at heart, a vicious sadist who would kill a man for the right reason (don't forget his bounty-hunting background!). Or even for no reason at all. He is a heartless individual. His allegiance is to the almighty dollar. It might only be a matter of time before Humperdink, a former rulebreaker himself, turns Bigelow loose.

And that won't be a pretty sight. □

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PWI
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HAYES & GARVIN

(Continued from page 37)



Hayes completes a sunset flip on Terry Taylor. Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts are livid because Hayes and Garvin have been introduced to fans as The Freebirds.

them right?" he asked. "The boys should know better than to think I'd sell out the Freebird name. I would hope they'd have more confidence in me than that."

His tone stiffened. Hayes is a proud man who bristles when his integrity is questioned. He is also, where The Freebirds are involved, fiercely loyal and sentimental. "I can't believe 'Jack' and 'Bamm Bamm' would say anything like that. We go too far back to talk behind each other's backs. If they had a problem, they'd talk to me first."

"As far as appropriating the name Freebirds," Hayes continued, "its use so far is without my permission. As far as I can tell, it's just a ring announcer making a mistake. Anyone billing Garvin and me as 'The Freebirds' is in error. There's no secrets here. Jimmy Garvin makes no claims to being a Freebird."

Doesn't he?

"Hey, it ain't my fault everyone is going 'round calling Michael and

me The Freebirds," Garvin says with a wave of his hands. "I mean, I got no problem with it. I respect The Freebirds. I respect what the name stands for. And I'm no way offended that someone would include me into the fold."

"The way I look at it is Hayes and myself out-Freebird The Freebirds. We take the mayhem and madness three steps farther. We dig the graves four feet lower. The Freebirds are not something tangible—it's a state of mind. Gordy and Roberts should be proud knowing we are carrying on the tradition."

According to Gordy, both he and Roberts have tried contacting Hayes to discuss the breach, but "the guy ain't never around. We call a hundred times, leave messages around town, but it don't do no good. That's Michael. We know he's doing one of the three W's—wrestling, womanizing, or whiskyng—we just don't know where he's doing it."

(Continued on page 60)

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Wrestling

September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.

February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.

June 1980/Graham, Patera, Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.

July 1980/Bruno-Graham, Samoans, Star Wars 1980.

October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

April 1981/Atlas, Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.

September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.

November 1981/Rhodes-Dibiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.

December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.

January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.



APRIL 1983

April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscoes, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.

May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.

June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.

July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.

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August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourny.

October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourny.

January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.

March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.

April 1987/1986 In Pictures, Kevin Von, Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.

May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.

June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.

July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.

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September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.

October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourny.

November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Shepherders, Condrey.

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HAYES & GARVIN

(Continued from page 58)

The two men won't rest until the matter is resolved. "To the rest of the world, this might seem pretty petty," Roberts explains, "but to us it's a matter of honor. No one can understand the importance the name Freebird means to me and Bamm Bamm. We assume Michael Hayes feels the same way. I mean, I am closer to Hayes than I am with my own family. He is my family. I'd take a bullet for him just as sure as 'Bamm Bamm' would for me. That's why this thing is so important."



Garvin (twisting Gilbert's arm) says that he doesn't mind being called a Freebird, but Gordy and Roberts mind plenty!

And as for Garvin, Gordy says, "Look, I got nothing against the little S.O.B. as long as he don't play his silly little games where I'm concerned. And I am concerned. Hayes is a maniac. I can see Garvin convincing him that something like this is okay. I can hear his squeaky voice saying, 'Don't worry, Mike, Gordy and Roberts would want it this way.'

"Well, listen up, Michael. It ain't okay with us. If I have to bury Jimmy Garvin and come drag you back here to Texas, I'll do it. Because Freebird pride is everything. There ain't nothing like it, and I won't have it soiled."



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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 20)

gifts—a diamond earring, a box of chocolates, plastic roses, expensive shoes three sizes too small.

"Ain't no one like Lizzie," he proclaimed, for all to hear. Then he kissed me and left—for good.

•
I'm a professional, dammit, and I've spent plenty of hard years proving it. I've faced off against some of the toughest men in this business and come away intact—with the story. Editors respect me, colleagues applaud me, readers clamor for my columns. I get criticized, too, but that only proves to me I'm doing something right. In a world dominated by prejudice, double standards, and chauvinism, I've held my own. I've made it.

And then, once in awhile, I'm reminded I'm still a woman.

The call came at 3:30 a.m. from a friend of mine, Aida Jones.

"Liz. Aida. Did you hear the news?"

No news is the best news at 3:30 a.m. "Talk to me, Aida. I know nothing." Instinctively, I reached for my pad and pen.

"Eddie Gilbert and Missy Hyatt were married last night."

"What?" The mention of his name snapped me to attention.

"Eddie and Missy. They were married last night."

"Eddie Gilbert married? To Missy Hyatt? Are you sure?"

"I'm always sure. Listen, are you going to be okay? Do you want me to come over?"

Aida is a gem. And she's got a heart full of gold.

"No, Aida. I'll be fine, just fine. This is good news, believe me. I'm glad you told me. I'll be fine. I need to reflect. You know how it is. I love you, kid."

My first purely rebellious thought was: What's Missy Hyatt got that I don't? Then I glanced at a recent photo from *Inside Wrestling* and

my question was plainly, painfully obviously, answered. Her photo screamed stacked, stacked, *STACKED!* Enough curves to challenge a Porsche. Sure, she looks like Vanna White with balloons in her blouse, but what about in 10 years when her chest droops and gives a big hello to her knees? What did I expect? Gilbert had never promised me anything. In fact, I owe the guy a debt of thanks. My experience with him made sure that I was never again tempted by a professional athlete. Of course, as readers know, I find many of them exciting. But I learned my lesson



Missy persuaded Gilbert not to invite Liz to the wedding—at least that's what Liz would like to think.

with Gilbert. Never get involved.

So why did I feel like day-old scrambled eggs? Maybe I'm hurt that I wasn't invited to the ceremony. Or at least invited to cover the ceremony. That would have been fitting. Something I'm sure Eddie Gilbert would have approved of. Maybe he tried to invite me, but Missy, enraged with jealousy, destroyed the invitation. Knowing Eddie, he probably wanted to tell me how much he's missed me, but Missy (the shrew) Hyatt, interfered. Threw a fit. Held her breath till Eddie gave in.

Yeah, that's the ticket. □

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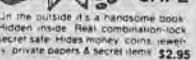


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BLOOD CAPSULES



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LOUD NOSE
BLOWER



No. 3534
BANG!

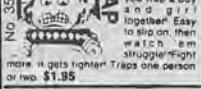
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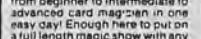
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PWI
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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 18)

ly. The fatal tomahawk chop, neatly finished with a sleeper *nonpareil*.

For the ability to incite a crowd, Hulk Hogan couldn't hold Strongbow's peace pipe. Of course my memories are seen through child's eyes—a province where good becomes great and great becomes incredible. Unfortunately, Strongbow's prime coincided with the glory years of Morales and Sammartino, thus keeping Strongbow from the title shots he richly deserved.



In his heyday, Strongbow slaps a sleeper on Baron Mikel Scicluna, who was also in the battle royal. After eagerly looking forward to the card, Eddie Ellner was greatly disappointed by the poor showing of Strongbow, his childhood hero.

To see Strongbow and Killer Kowalski and Bobo Brazil and Pat O'Connor . . . I could hardly contain myself. I entertained no illusions. Even in his prime, Strongbow was not a muscleman. I expected the 1987 version to reflect his age—at least 55, I'd guess—but still exude the confidence and excitement that separated him from all others.

The old-timers' battle royal was the best idea the WWF ever had. I enjoyed the sport most in Strongbow's day, without the lunatic fringe, when televised wrestling consisted of one camera angle, some old-fashioned wrestling, and a couple of interviews. Given the WWF's penchant for futuristic zaniness, this embrace of nostalgia was completely out of character. I applauded it.

Few people applauded with me. Roughly 4,000 fans packed the 18,000-seat arena. Given the barrage of promotion for this match, the response was inexplicable. Where the hell was everyone? Didn't they know Chief Jay was on the card? What can you expect from a federation of eight-year-old Hulkamaniacs? Did I really think a bunch of midgets raised on Kool-Aid would appreciate fine wine?

Who cared anyway? This was my night. They were my memories. As the old-timers filed in, the years receded. Edouard Carpentier appeared no different than I remember him in Montreal 15 years ago, locked in battle against Don Leo Jonathan. Ditto for Bobo Brazil, Pedro Morales, and Tony Garea. Nick Bockwinkel, six months removed from the AWA title, of course looked great, as did his old tag team partner, Ray Stevens . . .

. . . The Chief? Can you believe it—the Chief never showed. Some potbellied, grotesque old man in a T-shirt (in a "Hulkamania" T-shirt, no less!) masquerading as Chief Jay Strongbow was introduced. Oh, it was Strongbow, but the Chief, the real Chief, failed to appear. This imitation injun wore no headdress. He did not smile.

When the imposter was dumped from the ring (the second one to leave), I left the Meadowlands and caught a late dinner with Beth. □

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ANNUAL 1



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ANN/SUM 83



ANN/FALL 83



ANN/Win 83



ANN/SPR 84



ANN/SUM 84

SUPERSTARS



JULY 77



DEC 77



FALL 80



FALL 81



SPRING 82



FALL 82



WINTER 82



SPRING 83



SUMMER 83

BEST OF THE WRESTLER



WINTER 78



SUMMER 79



SUMMER 80



FALL 80



SPRING 81



SUMMER 81



WINTER 81



SUMMER 82



FALL 82



WINTER 82



SPRING 83



SUMMER 83

BEN STRONG



JAN 73



NOV 73

ANNUALS

- ANNUAL 1
- ANNUAL/Feb 80
- ANNUAL/Spr 80
- ANNUAL/Sum 80
- ANNUAL/Sum 81
- ANNUAL/Win 81
- ANNUAL/Spr 82
- ANNUAL/Sum 82
- ANNUAL/Fall 82
- ANNUAL/Win 82
- ANNUAL/Spr 83
- ANNUAL/Sum 83
- ANNUAL/Fall 83
- ANNUAL/Win 83
- ANNUAL/Spr 84
- ANNUAL/Sum 84

SUPERSTARS

- Superstars/July 77
- Superstars/Dec 77
- Superstars/Fall 80
- Superstars/Fall 81
- Superstars/Spr 82
- Superstars/Fall 82
- Superstars/Win 82
- Superstars/Spr 83
- Superstars/Sum 83

BEST OF THE WRESTLER

- Best of Wres/Win 78
- Best of Wres/Sum 79
- Best of Wres/Sum 80
- Best of Wres/Fall 80
- Best of Wres/Spr 81
- Best of Wres/Sum 81
- Best of Wres/Fall 81
- Best of Wres/Win 81
- Best of Wres/Sum 82
- Best of Wres/Fall 82
- Best of Wres/Win 82
- Best of Wres/Sum 83

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MORE WEIGHT?

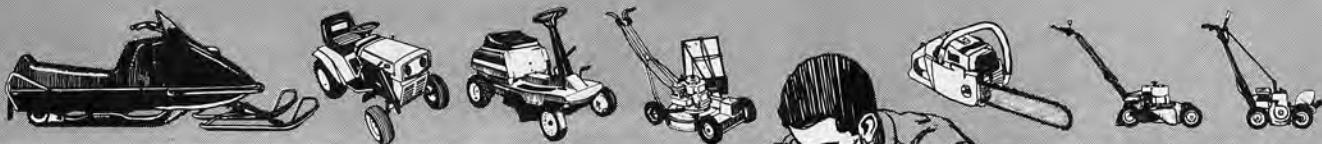
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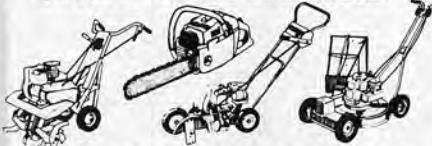


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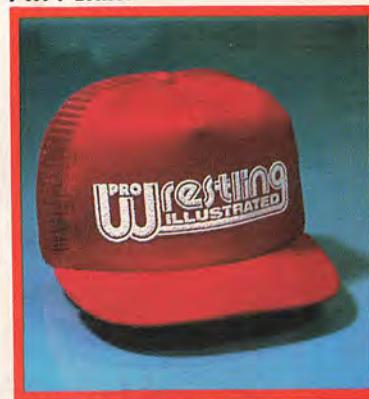
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